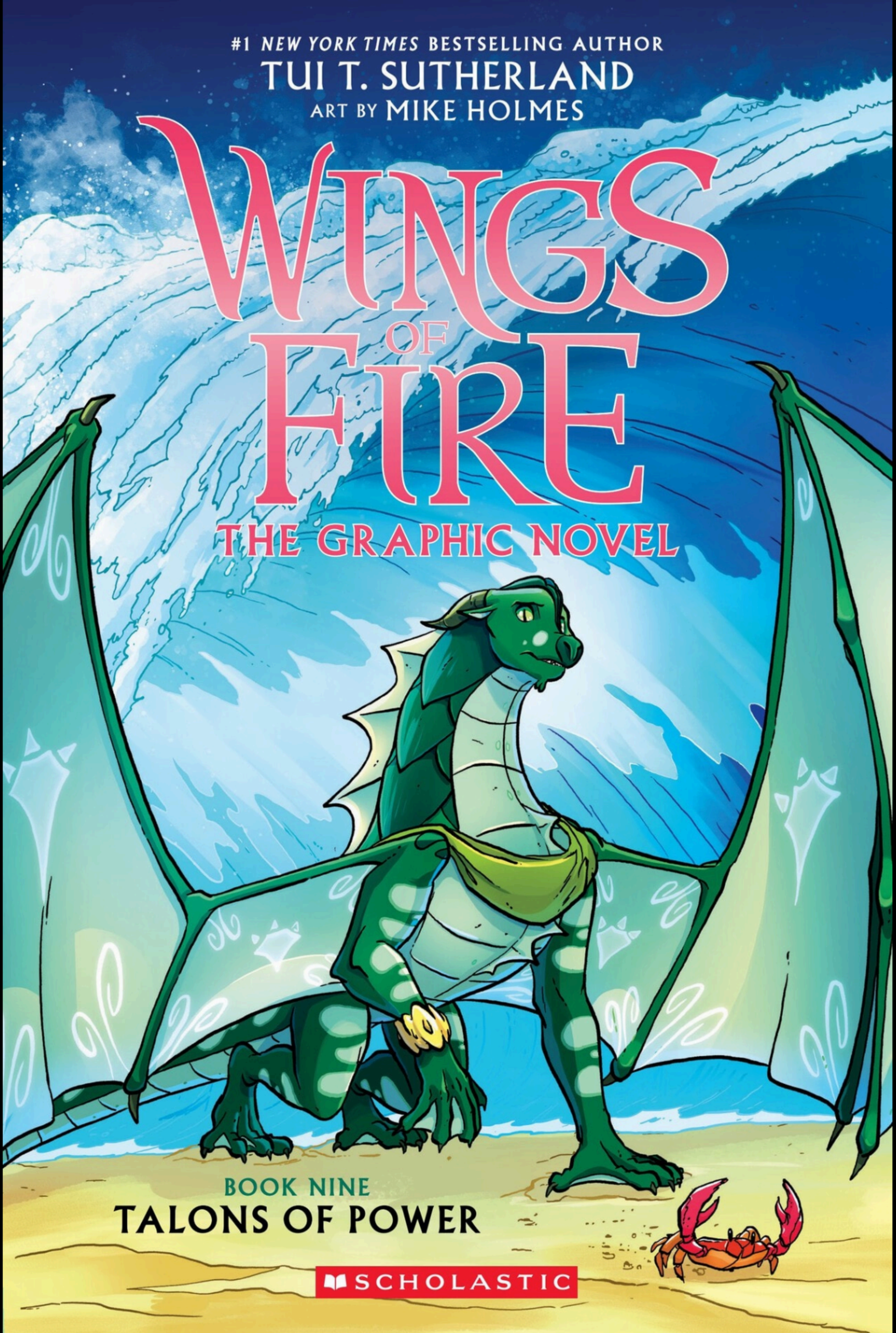
#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

TUI T. SUTHERLAND

ART BY MIKE HOLMES

WINGS OF FIRE

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



BOOK NINE

TALONS OF POWER

SCHOLASTIC

DISCOVER
THE WORLD OF
WINGS OF FIRE

BOOK ONE
THE DRAGONET PROPHECY

BOOK TWO
THE LOST HEIR

BOOK THREE
THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

BOOK FOUR
THE DARK SECRET

BOOK FIVE
THE BRIGHTEST NIGHT

BOOK SIX
MOON RISING

BOOK SEVEN
WINTER TURNING

BOOK EIGHT
ESCAPING PERIL

BOOK NINE
TALONS OF POWER

BOOK TEN
DARKNESS OF DRAGONS

BOOK ELEVEN
THE LOST CONTINENT

BOOK TWELVE
THE HIVE QUEEN

BOOK THIRTEEN
THE POISON JUNGLE

BOOK FOURTEEN
THE DANGEROUS GIFT

BOOK FIFTEEN
THE FLAMES OF HOPE

LEGENDS
DARKSTALKER
DRAGONSLAYER

GRAPHIC NOVELS

BOOK ONE
THE DRAGONET PROPHECY

BOOK TWO
THE LOST HEIR

BOOK THREE
THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

BOOK FOUR
THE DARK SECRET

BOOK FIVE
THE BRIGHTEST NIGHT

BOOK SIX
MOON RISING

BOOK SEVEN
WINTER TURNING

BOOK EIGHT
ESCAPING PERIL

BOOK NINE
TALONS OF POWER

LEGENDS
DARKSTALKER

WINGS OF FIRE

TALONS OF POWER

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

For Alex, William, and Penelope, who are awesome!
—T.T.S.

For Meredith — you've made every year better than the last,
and you've done it without any magical powers. I think.
—M.H.

Story and text copyright © 2026 by Tui T. Sutherland
Adaptation by Barry Deutsch and Rachel Swirsky
Map and border design © 2014 by Mike Schley
Art by Mike Holmes © 2026 by Scholastic Inc.

All rights reserved. Published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.,
Publishers since 1920. SCHOLASTIC, GRAPHIX, and associated logos are
trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any
responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.
No part of this publication may be reproduced, transmitted, downloaded, decompiled, reverse
engineered, used to train any artificial intelligence technologies, or stored in or introduced into
any information storage and retrieval system, in any form or by any means, whether electronic
or mechanical, now known or hereafter invented, without the express written permission
of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc.,
Attention: Permissions Department, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents
are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously,
and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, business
establishments, events, or locales is entirelyt coincidental.

Library of Congress Control Number Available

e-ISBN 978-1-5461-1056-9

First edition, January 2026
Edited by Amanda Maciel
Book design by Phil Falco
Coloring by Maarta Laiho
Color flatting by Wes Dzioba, John Novak,
Aaron Polk, and Jaime Temairik
Lettering by E.K. Weaver
Creative Director: Phil Falco
Publisher: David Saylor

WINGS OF FIRE

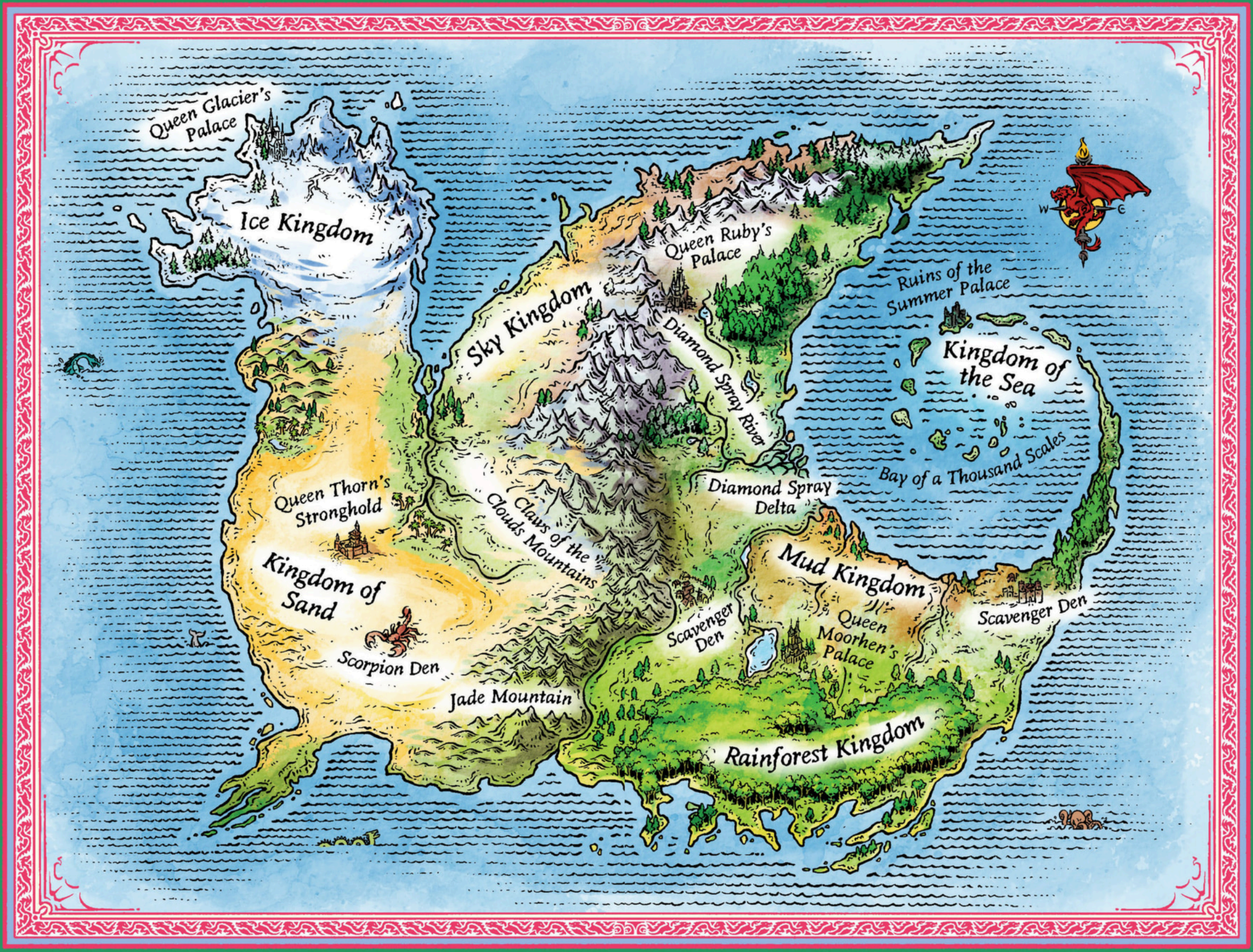
TALONS OF POWER
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

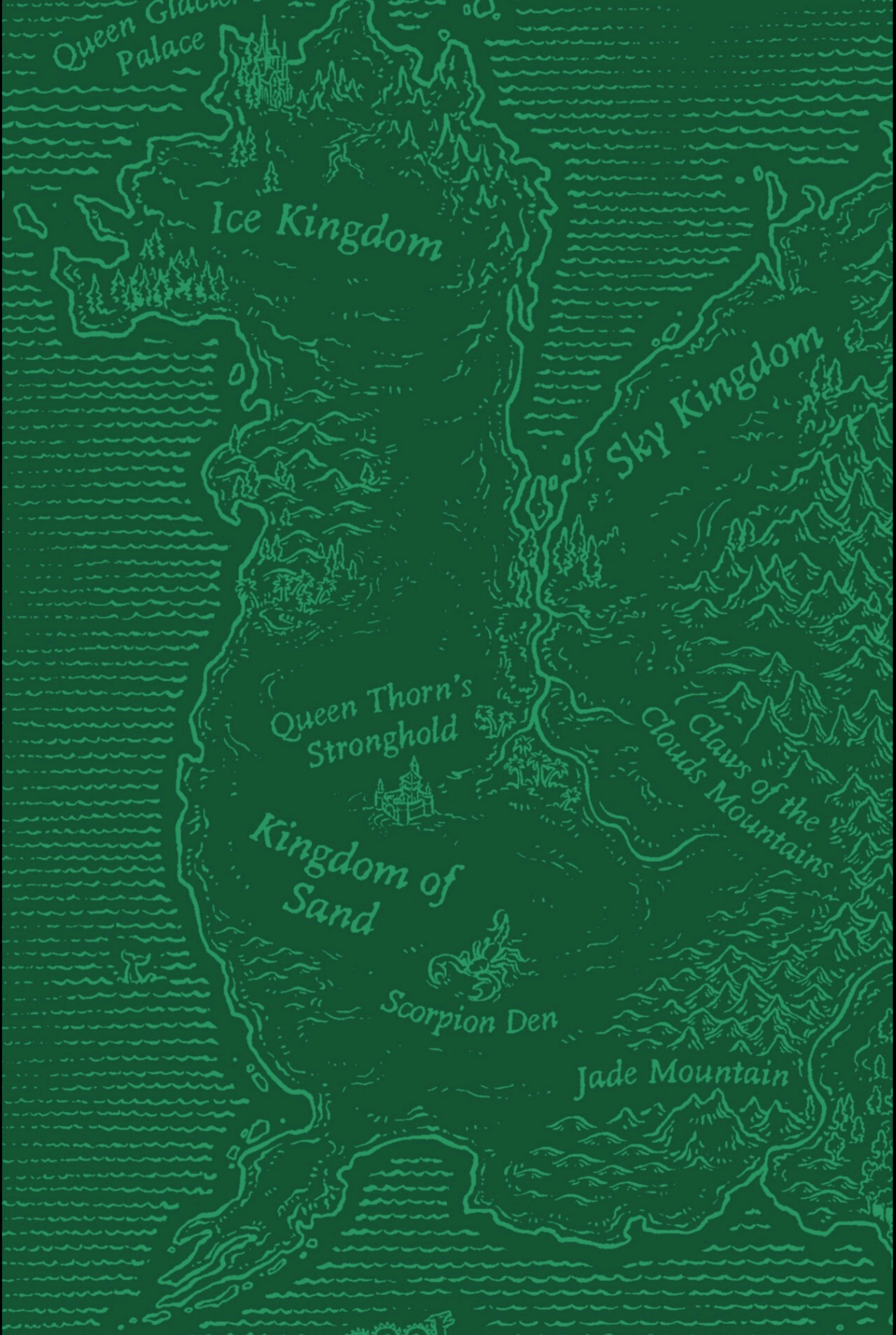
BY TUI T. SUTHERLAND

ADAPTED BY BARRY DEUTSCH
AND RACHEL SWIRSKY

ART BY MIKE HOLMES
COLOR BY MAARTA LAIHO

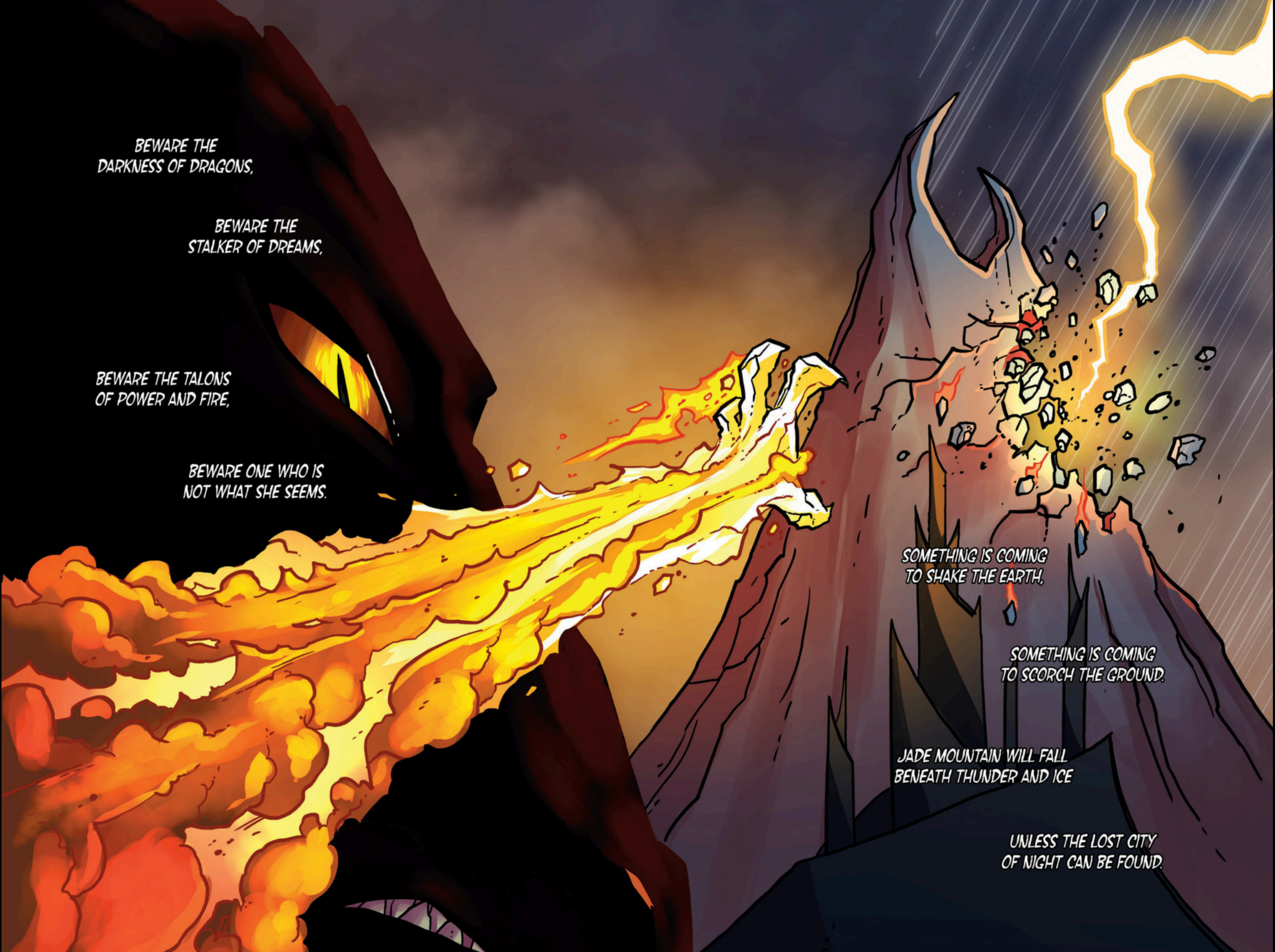
graphix
AN IMPRINT OF
SCHOLASTIC

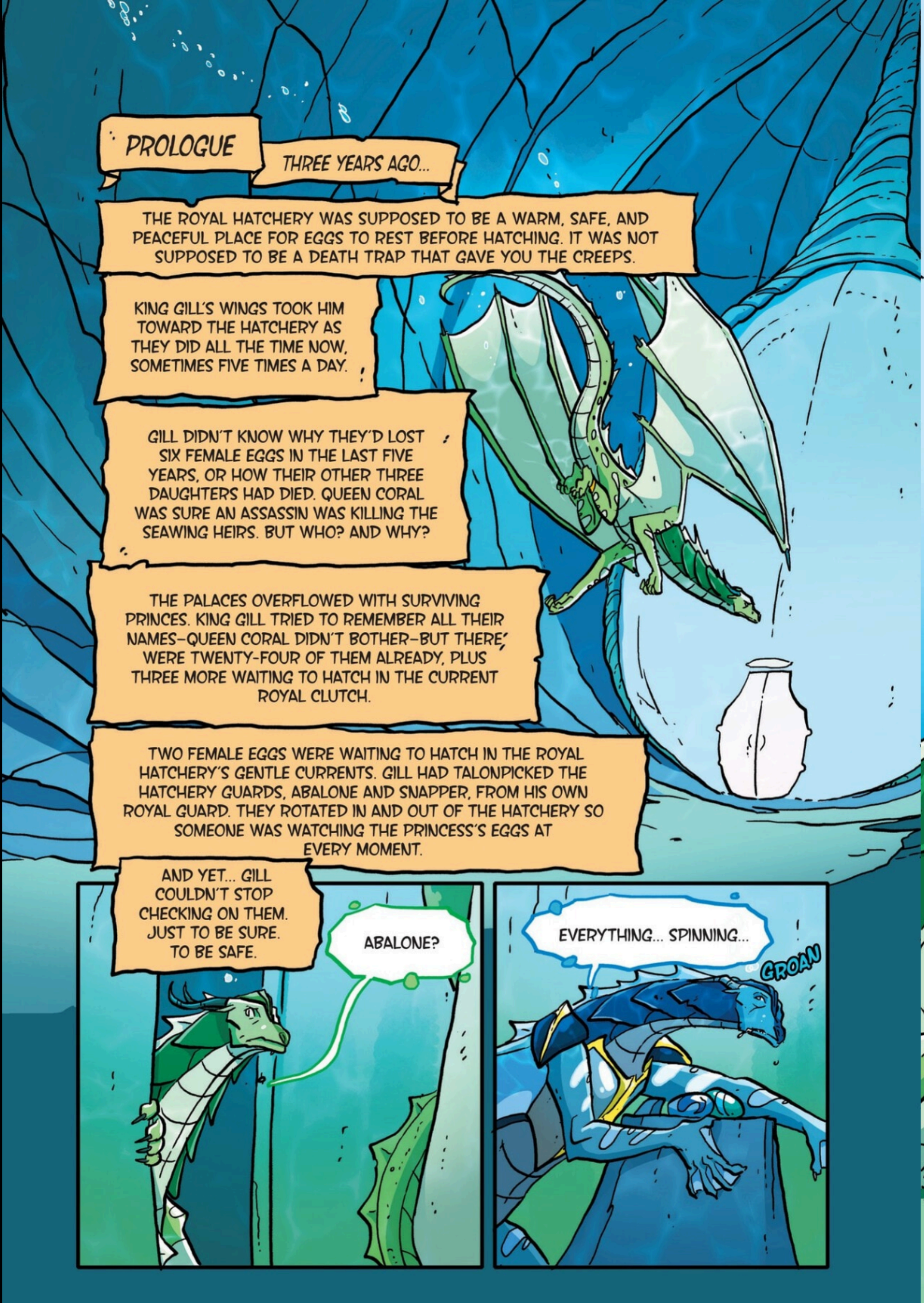

Queen Glacier's Palace
Ice Kingdom
Queen Ruby's Palace
Sky Kingdom
Diamond Spray River
W
E
Ruins of the Summer Palace
Kingdom of the Sea
Bay of a Thousand Scales
Diamond Spray Delta
Queen Thorn's Stronghold
Claws of the Clouds Mountains
Kingdom of Sand
Mud Kingdom
Scavenger Den
Scavenger Den
Queen Moorhen's Palace
Scorpion Den
Jade Mountain
Rainforest Kingdom


Queen Glaci
Palace
Ice Kingdom
Sky Kingdom
Queen Thorn's Stronghold
Claws of the Clouds Mountains
Kingdom of Sand
Scorpion Den
Jade Mountain

TALONS OF POWER

THE JADE MOUNTAIN PROPHECY


BEWARE THE DARKNESS OF DRAGONS,
BEWARE THE STALKER OF DREAMS,
BEWARE THE TALONS OF POWER AND FIRE,
BEWARE ONE WHO IS NOT WHAT SHE SEEMS.
SOMETHING IS COMING TO SHAKE THE EARTH,
SOMETHING IS COMING TO SCORCH THE GROUND.
JADE MOUNTAIN WILL FALL BENEATH THUNDER AND ICE
UNLESS THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT CAN BE FOUND.



PROLOGUE

THREE YEARS AGO...

THE ROYAL HATCHERY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A WARM, SAFE, AND PEACEFUL PLACE FOR EGGS TO REST BEFORE HATCHING. IT WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A DEATH TRAP THAT GAVE YOU THE CREEPS.

KING GILL'S WINGS TOOK HIM TOWARD THE HATCHERY AS THEY DID ALL THE TIME NOW, SOMETIMES FIVE TIMES A DAY.

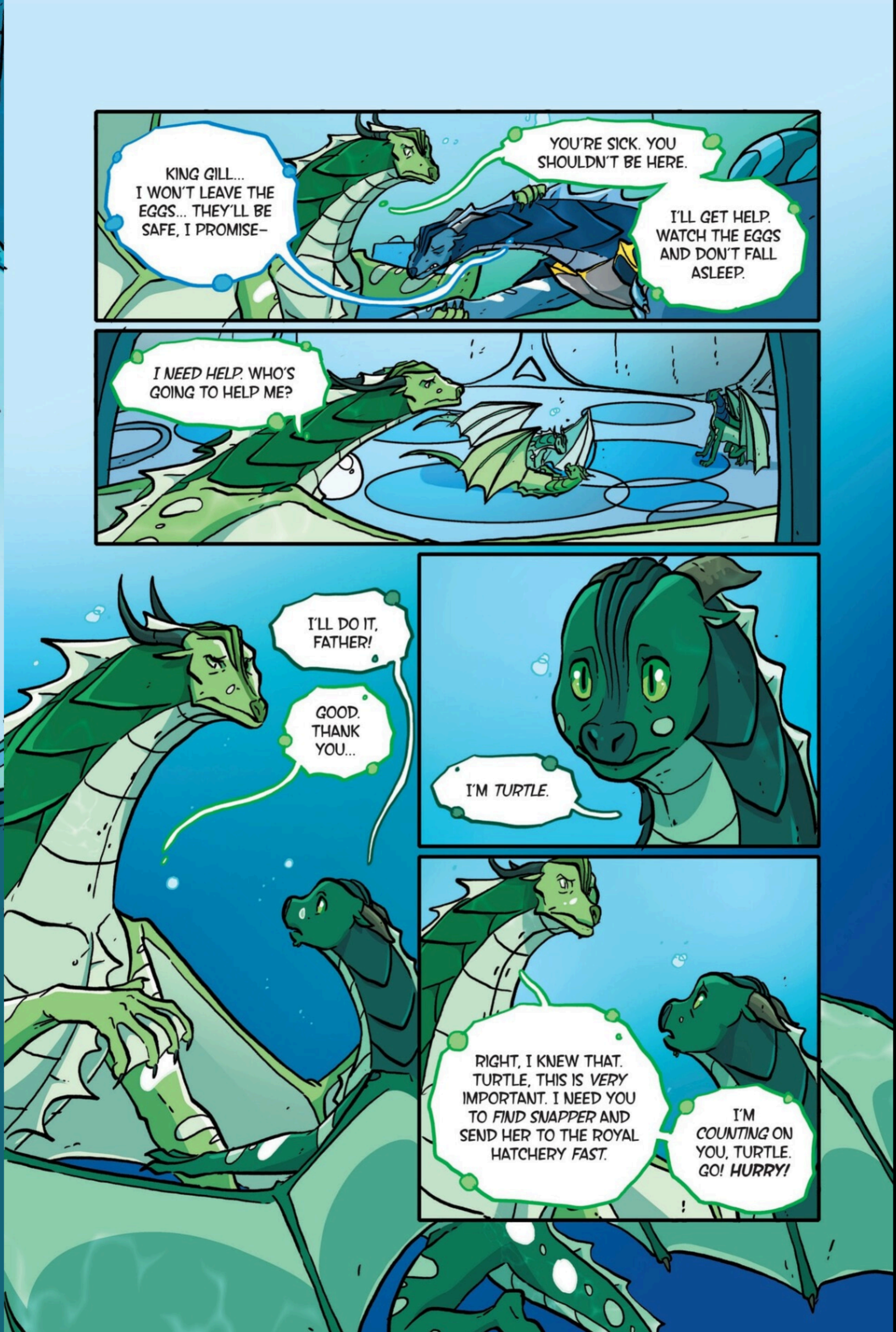
GILL DIDN'T KNOW WHY THEY'D LOST SIX FEMALE EGGS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, OR HOW THEIR OTHER THREE DAUGHTERS HAD DIED. QUEEN CORAL WAS SURE AN ASSASSIN WAS KILLING THE SEAWING HEIRS. BUT WHO? AND WHY?

THE PALACES OVERFLOWED WITH SURVIVING PRINCES. KING GILL TRIED TO REMEMBER ALL THEIR NAMES—QUEEN CORAL DIDN'T BOTHER—BUT THERE WERE TWENTY-FOUR OF THEM ALREADY, PLUS THREE MORE WAITING TO HATCH IN THE CURRENT ROYAL CLUTCH.

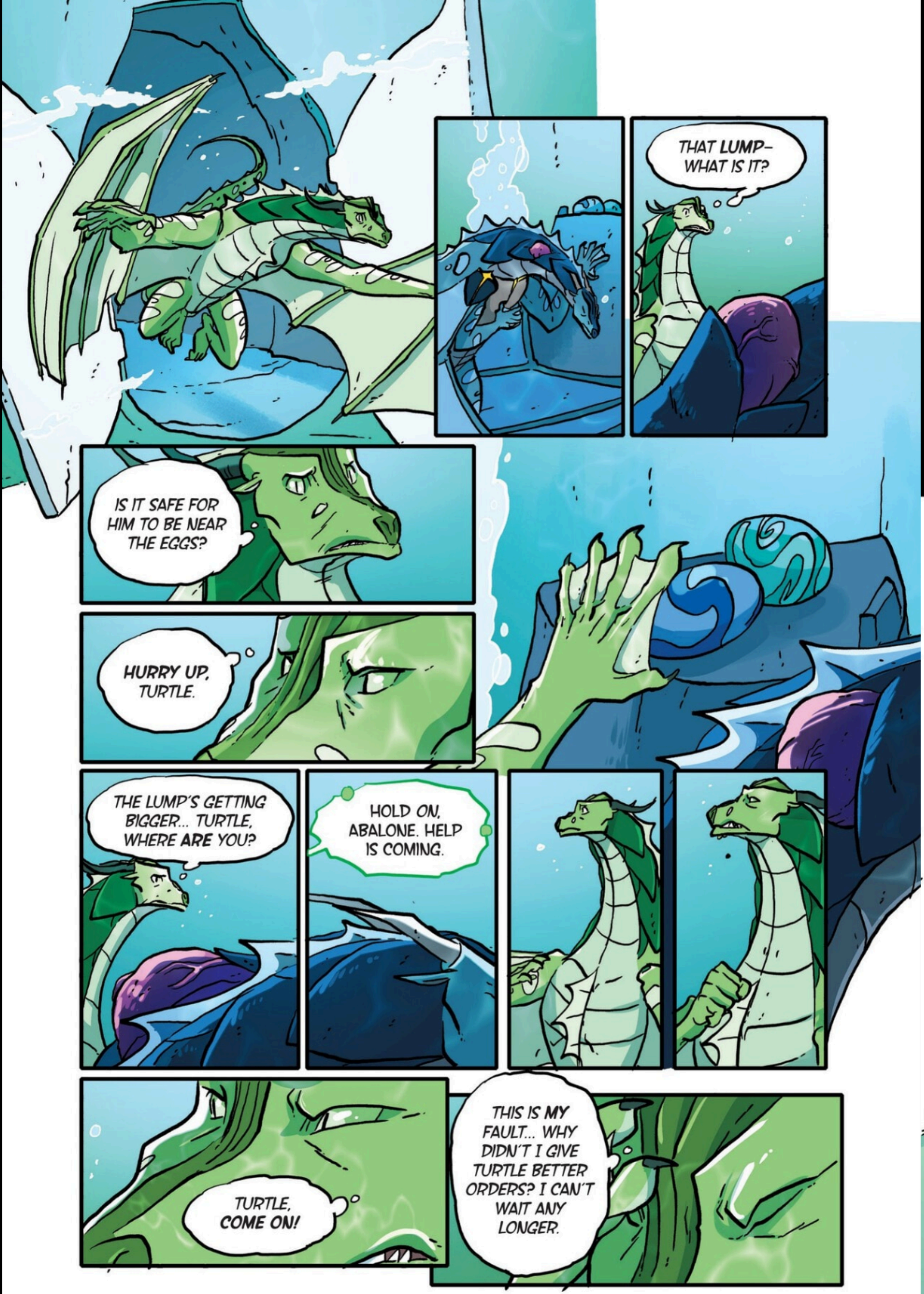
TWO FEMALE EGGS WERE WAITING TO HATCH IN THE ROYAL HATCHERY'S GENTLE CURRENTS. GILL HAD TALONPICKED THE HATCHERY GUARDS, ABALONE AND SNAPPER, FROM HIS OWN ROYAL GUARD. THEY ROTATED IN AND OUT OF THE HATCHERY SO SOMEONE WAS WATCHING THE PRINCESS'S EGGS AT EVERY MOMENT.

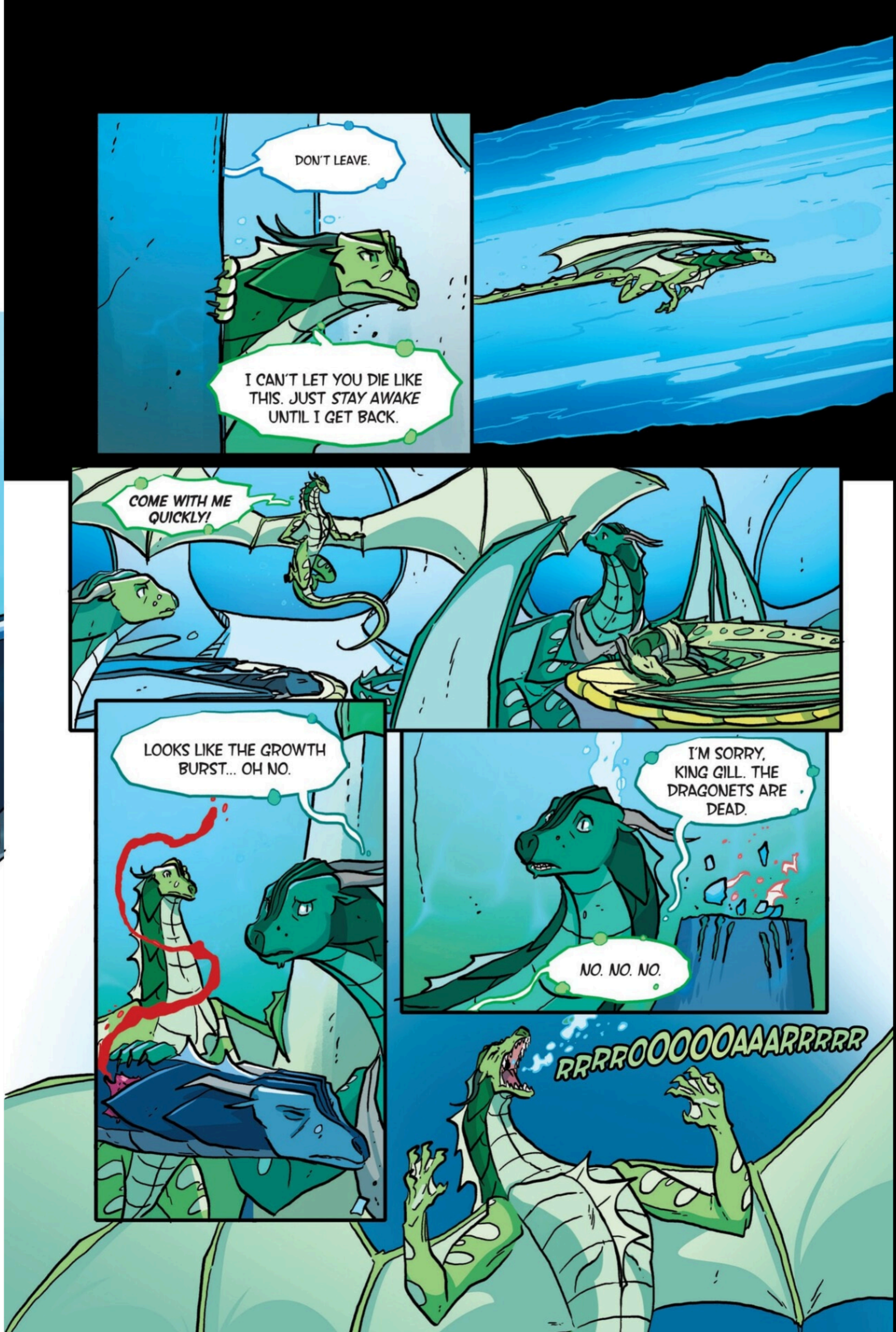
AND YET... GILL COULDN'T STOP CHECKING ON THEM. JUST TO BE SURE. TO BE SAFE.

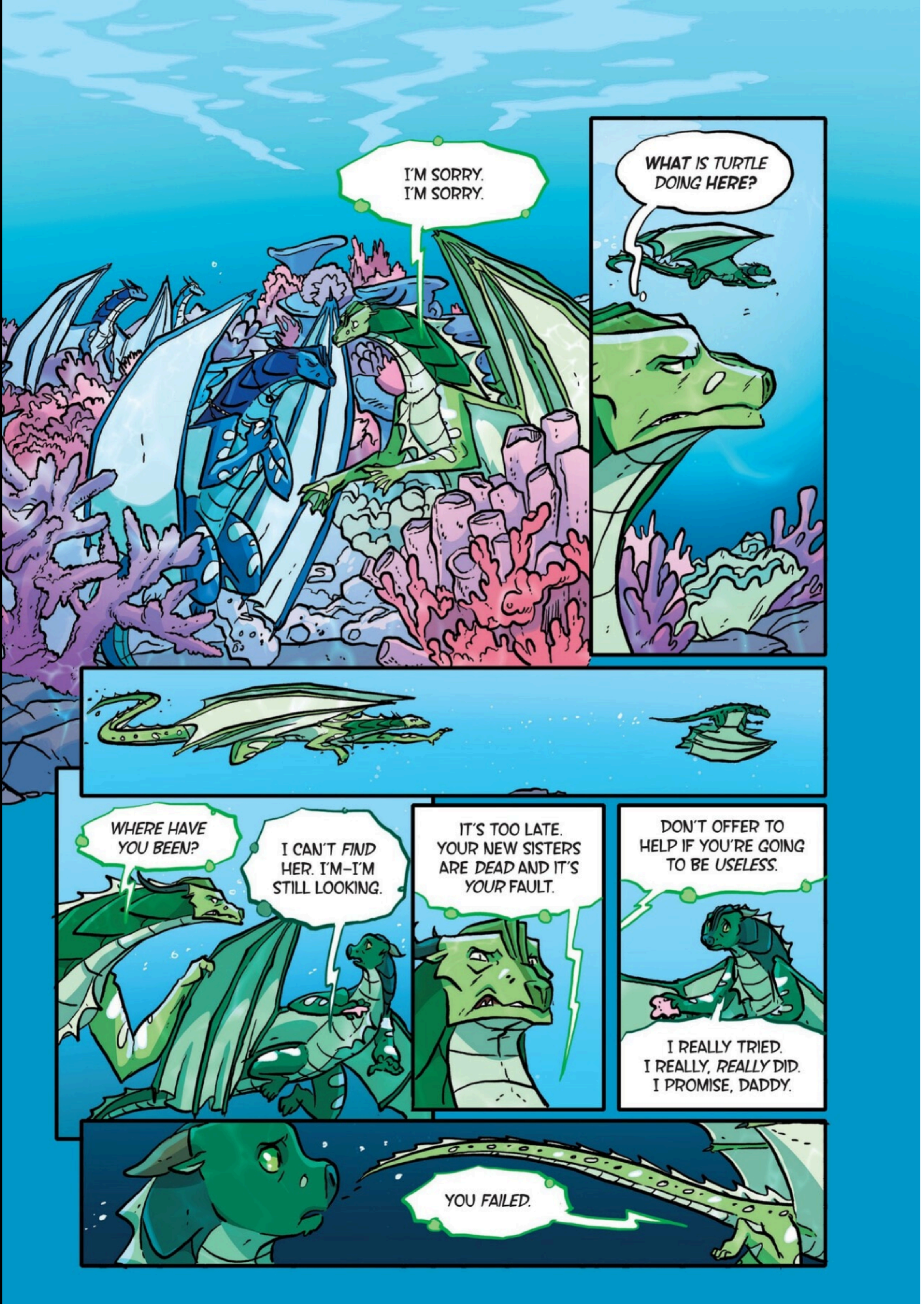
ABALONE?
EVERYTHING... SPINNING...
GROAN

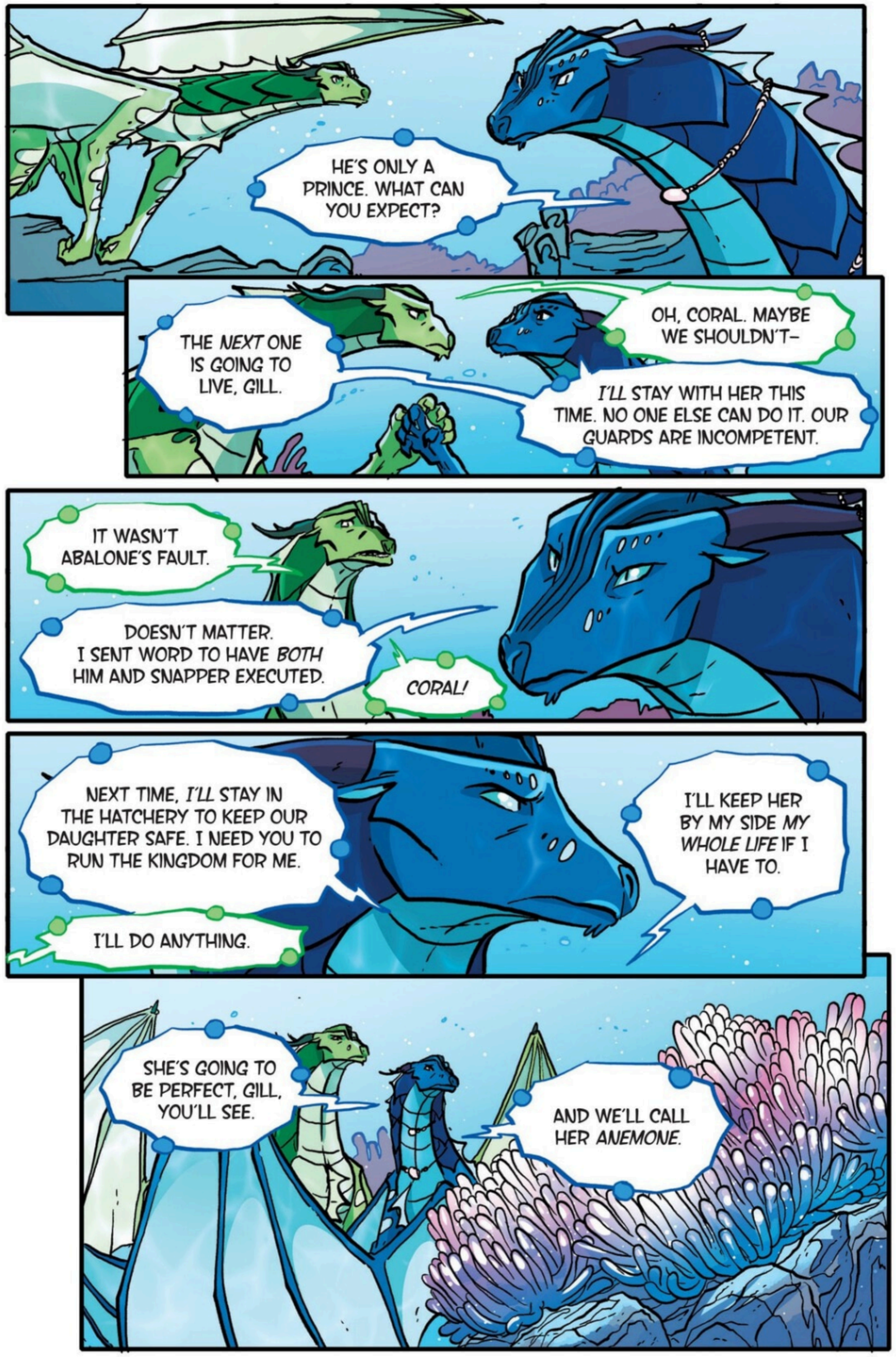


KING GILL... I WON'T LEAVE THE EGGS... THEY'LL BE SAFE, I PROMISE—
YOU'RE SICK. YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
I'LL GET HELP. WATCH THE EGGS AND DON'T FALL ASLEEP.
I NEED HELP. WHO'S GOING TO HELP ME?
I'LL DO IT, FATHER!
GOOD. THANK YOU...
I'M *TURTLE*.
RIGHT, I KNEW THAT. TURTLE, THIS IS *VERY* IMPORTANT. I NEED YOU TO *FIND SNAPPER* AND SEND HER TO THE ROYAL HATCHERY *FAST*.
I'M *COUNTING* ON YOU, TURTLE. GO! *HURRY!*

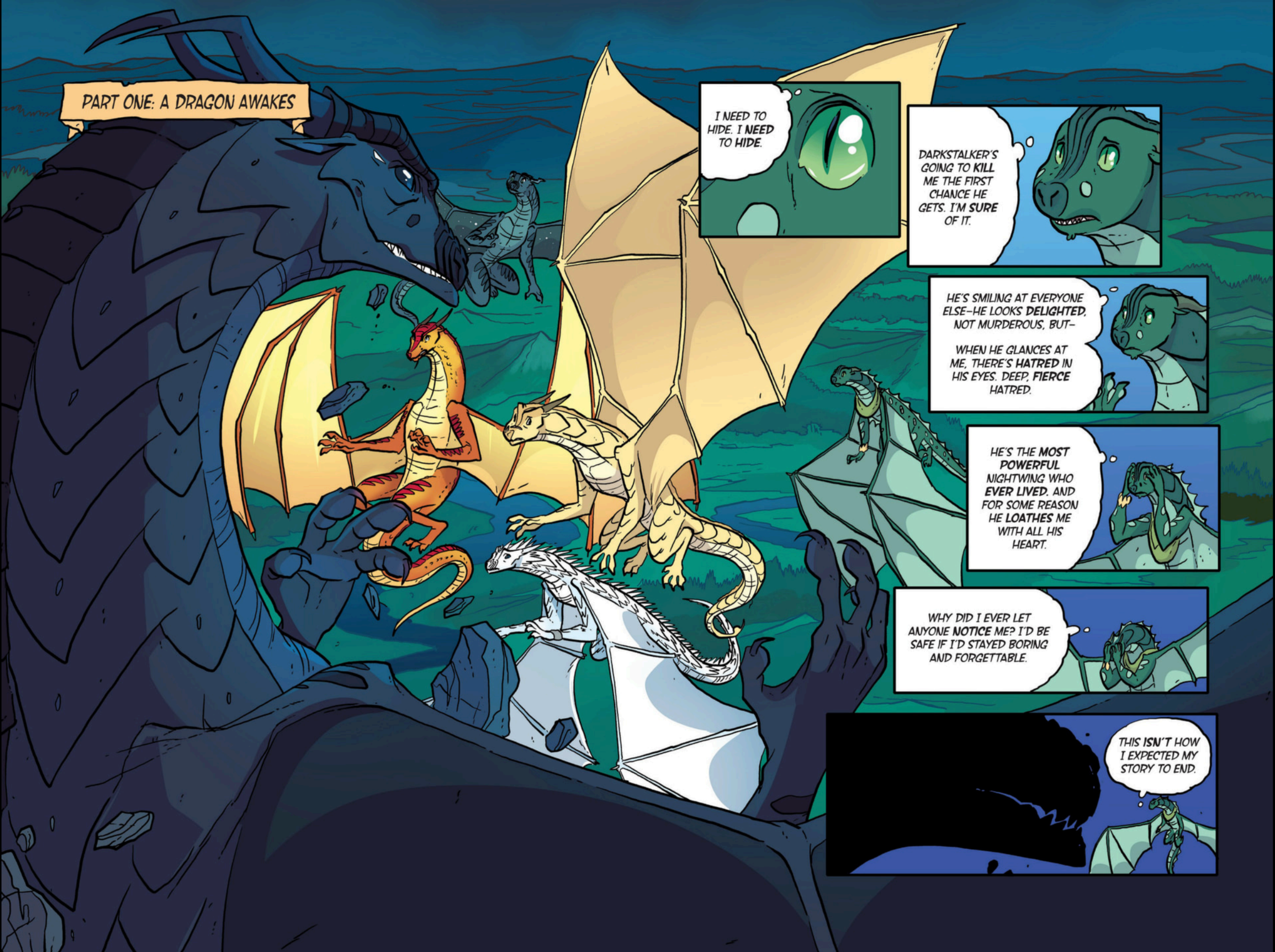

THAT LUMP— WHAT IS IT?
IS IT SAFE FOR HIM TO BE NEAR THE EGGS?
HURRY UP, TURTLE.
THE LUMP'S GETTING BIGGER... TURTLE, WHERE ARE YOU?
HOLD ON, ABALONE. HELP IS COMING.
TURTLE, COME ON!
THIS IS MY FAULT... WHY DIDN'T I GIVE TURTLE BETTER ORDERS? I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

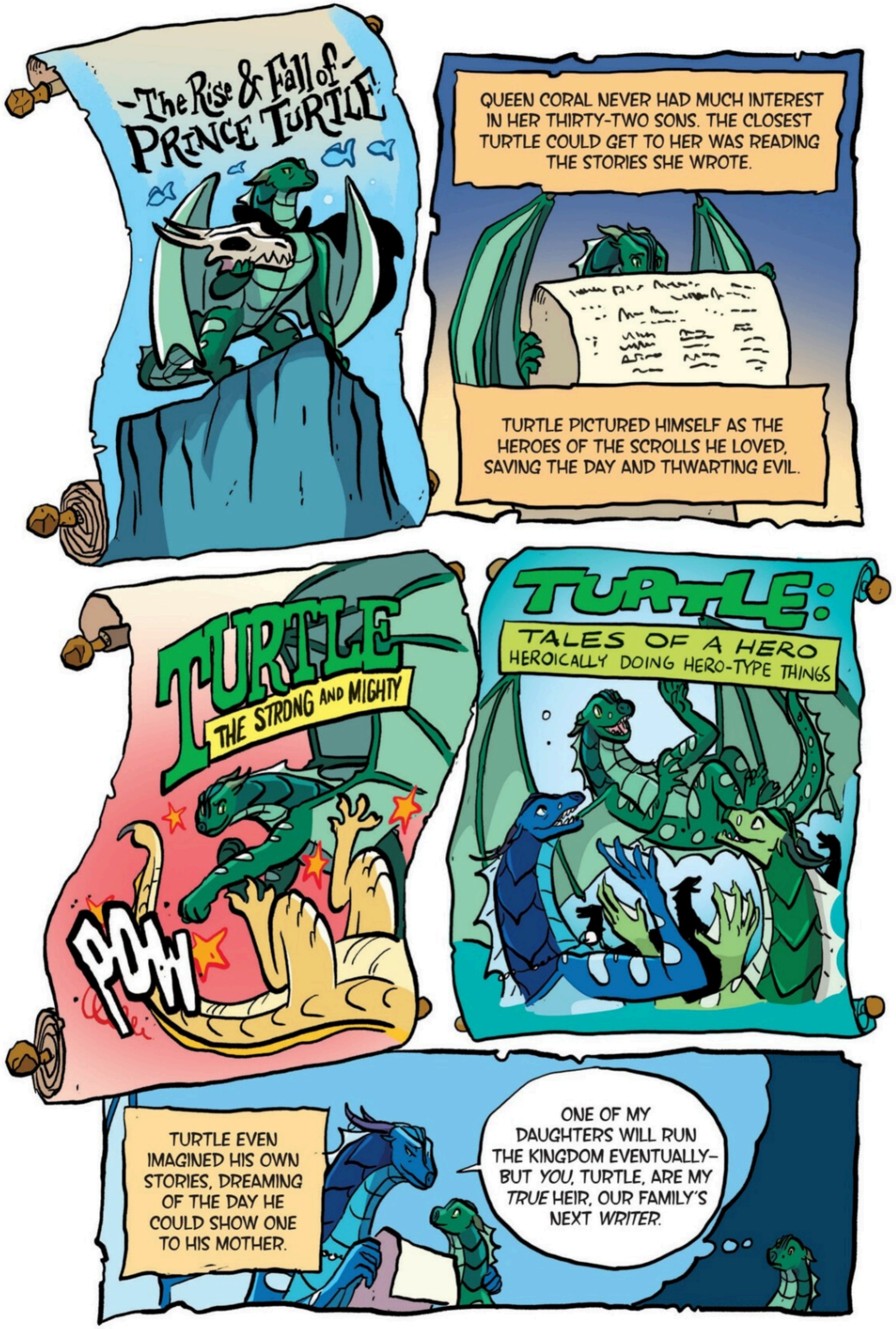

DON'T LEAVE.
I CAN'T LET YOU DIE LIKE THIS. JUST STAY AWAKE UNTIL I GET BACK.
COME WITH ME QUICKLY!
LOOKS LIKE THE GROWTH BURST... OH NO.
I'M SORRY, KING GILL. THE DRAGONETS ARE DEAD.
NO. NO. NO.
RRRROOOOOAAARRRRR

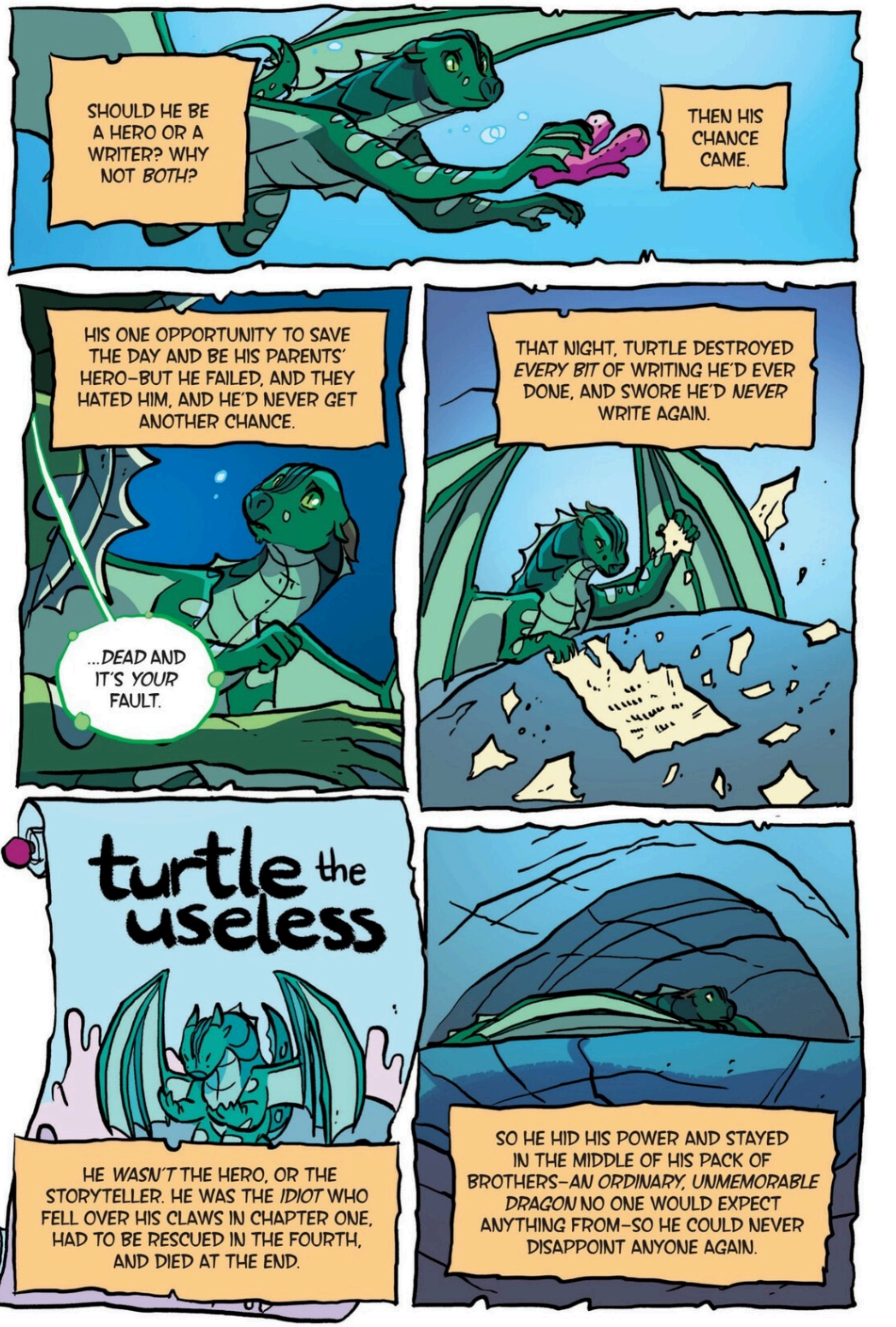

I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
WHAT IS TURTLE DOING *HERE*?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I CAN'T *FIND* HER. I'M–I'M STILL LOOKING.
IT'S TOO LATE. YOUR NEW SISTERS ARE *DEAD* AND IT'S *YOUR* FAULT.
DON'T OFFER TO HELP IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE *USELESS*.
I REALLY TRIED. I REALLY, *REALLY* DID. I PROMISE, DADDY.
YOU *FAILED*.

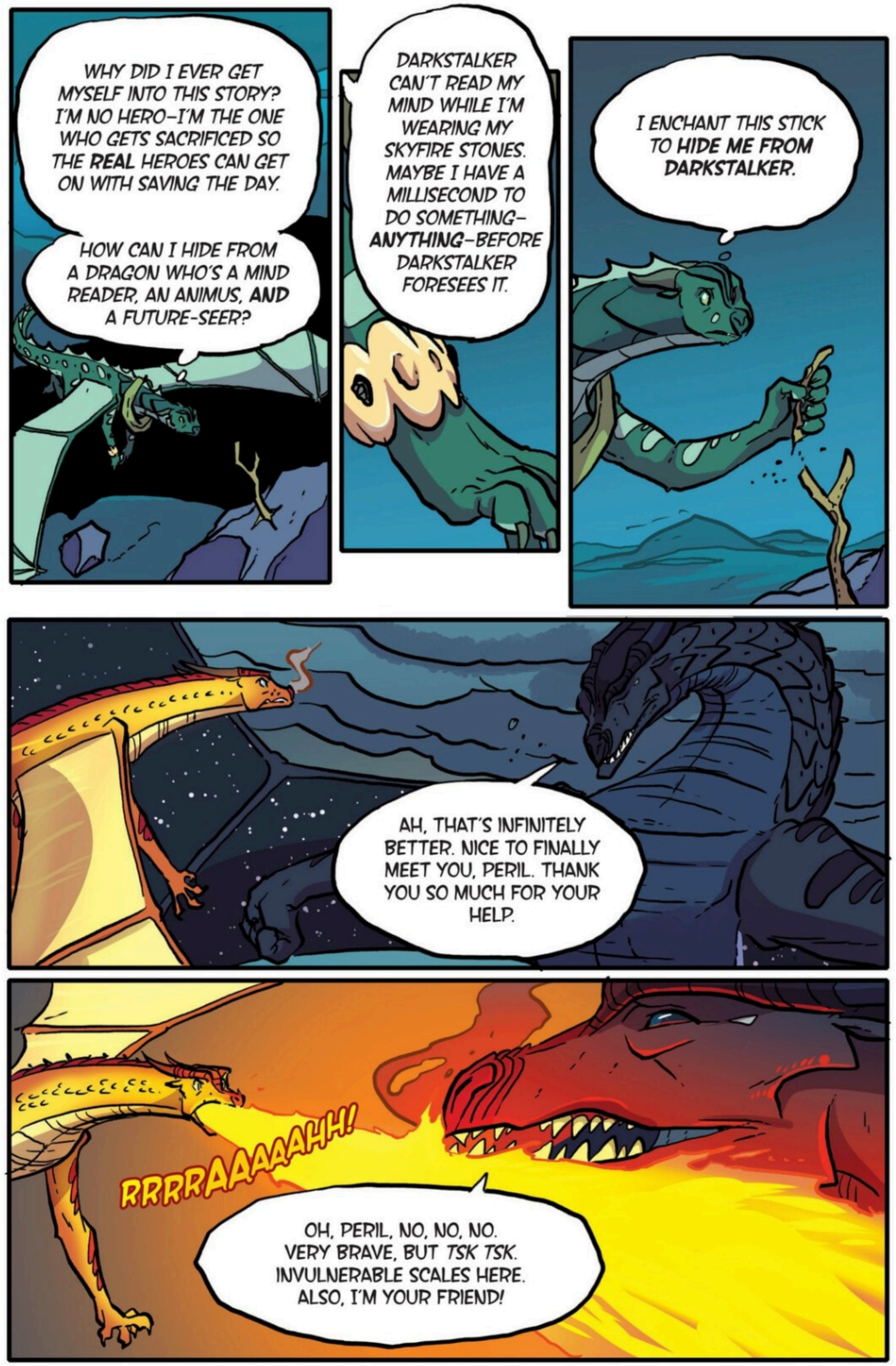

HE'S ONLY A PRINCE. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?
THE *NEXT* ONE IS GOING TO LIVE, GILL.
OH, CORAL. MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T–
I'LL STAY WITH HER THIS TIME. NO ONE ELSE CAN DO IT. OUR GUARDS ARE INCOMPETENT.
IT WASN'T ABALONE'S FAULT.
DOESN'T MATTER. I SENT WORD TO HAVE *BOTH* HIM AND SNAPPER EXECUTED.
CORAL!
NEXT TIME, *I'LL* STAY IN THE HATCHERY TO KEEP OUR DAUGHTER SAFE. I NEED YOU TO RUN THE KINGDOM FOR ME.
I'LL DO ANYTHING.
I'LL KEEP HER BY MY SIDE *MY WHOLE LIFE* IF I HAVE TO.
SHE'S GOING TO BE PERFECT, GILL, YOU'LL SEE.
AND WE'LL CALL HER *ANEMONE*.

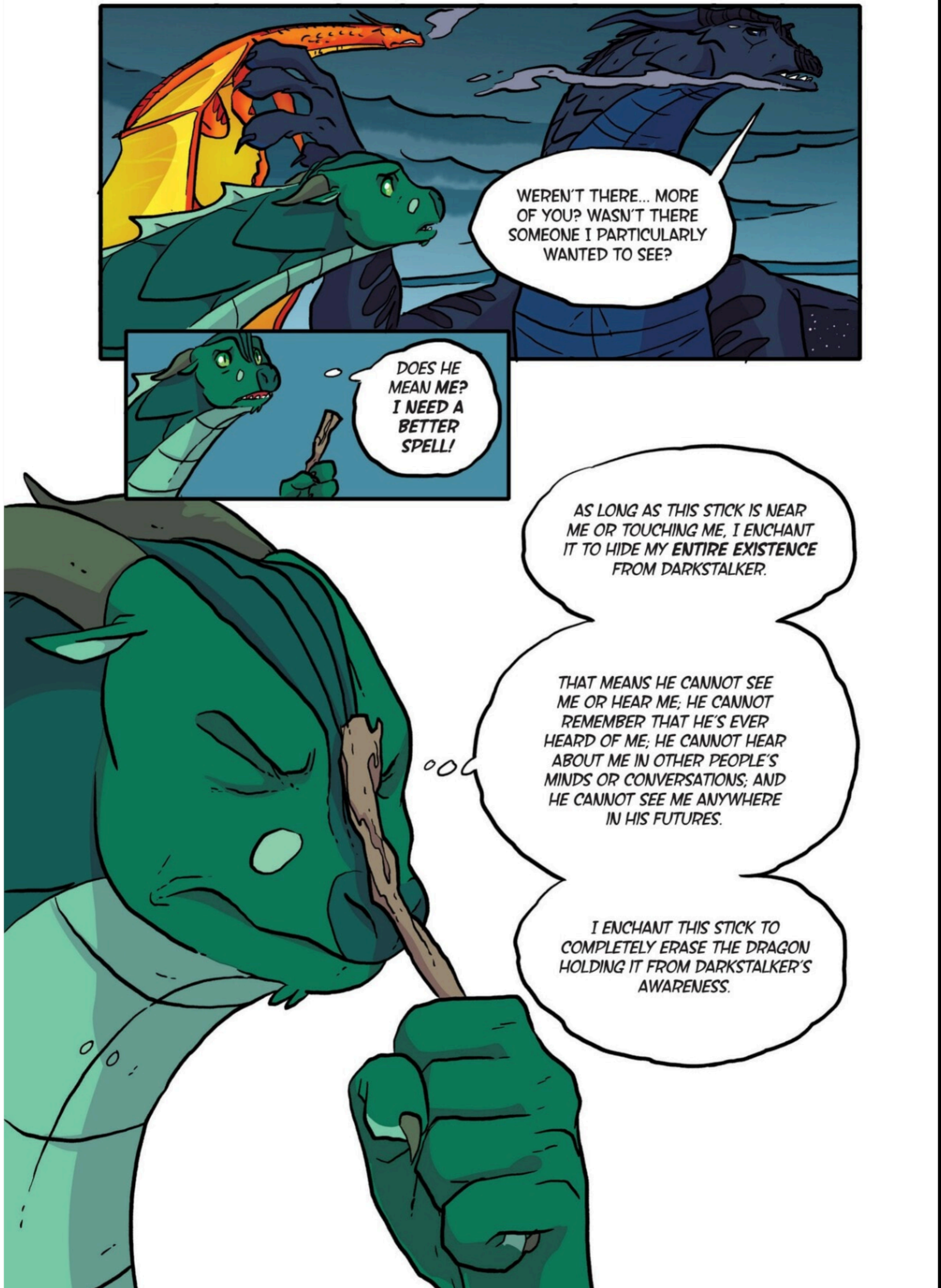
PART ONE: A DRAGON AWAKES

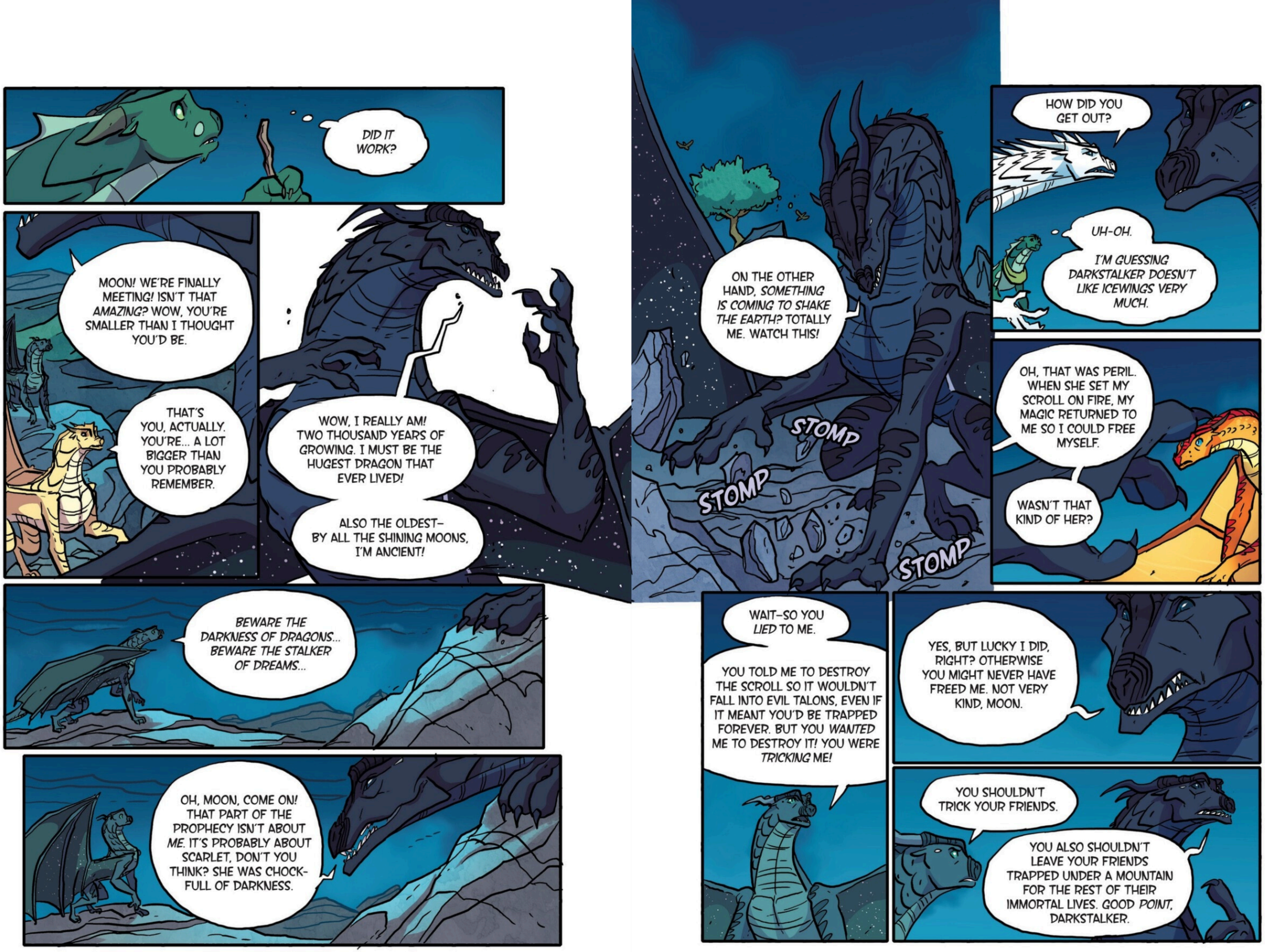

I NEED TO HIDE. I **NEED** TO **HIDE**.
DARKSTALKER'S GOING TO **KILL** ME THE FIRST CHANCE HE GETS. I'M **SURE** OF IT.
HE'S SMILING AT EVERYONE ELSE—HE LOOKS **DELIGHTED**, NOT MURDEROUS, BUT—
WHEN HE GLANCES AT ME, THERE'S **HATRED** IN HIS EYES. DEEP, **FIERCE** HATRED.
HE'S THE **MOST POWERFUL** NIGHTWING WHO **EVER LIVED**. AND FOR SOME REASON HE **LOATHES** ME WITH ALL HIS HEART.
WHY DID I EVER LET ANYONE **NOTICE** ME? I'D BE SAFE IF I'D STAYED BORING AND FORGETTABLE.
THIS **ISN'T** HOW I EXPECTED MY STORY TO END.

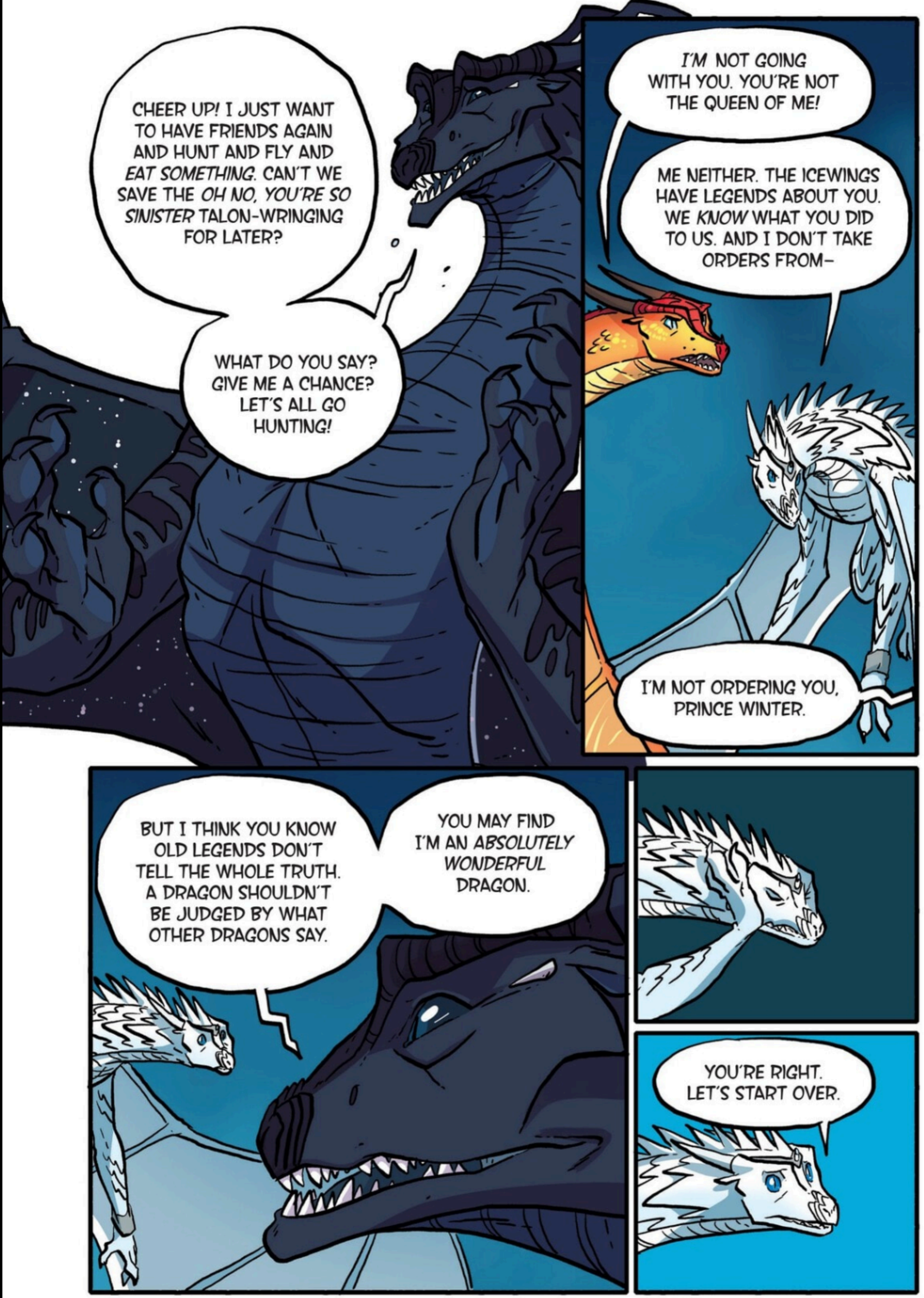

The Rise & Fall of PRINCE TURTLE
QUEEN CORAL NEVER HAD MUCH INTEREST IN HER THIRTY-TWO SONS. THE CLOSEST TURTLE COULD GET TO HER WAS READING THE STORIES SHE WROTE.
TURTLE PICTURED HIMSELF AS THE HEROES OF THE SCROLLS HE LOVED, SAVING THE DAY AND THWARTING EVIL.
TURTLE THE STRONG AND MIGHTY
POW
TURTLE: TALES OF A HERO HEROICALLY DOING HERO-TYPE THINGS
TURTLE EVEN IMAGINED HIS OWN STORIES, DREAMING OF THE DAY HE COULD SHOW ONE TO HIS MOTHER.
ONE OF MY DAUGHTERS WILL RUN THE KINGDOM EVENTUALLY—BUT *YOU*, TURTLE, ARE MY *TRUE* HEIR, OUR FAMILY'S NEXT *WRITER*.

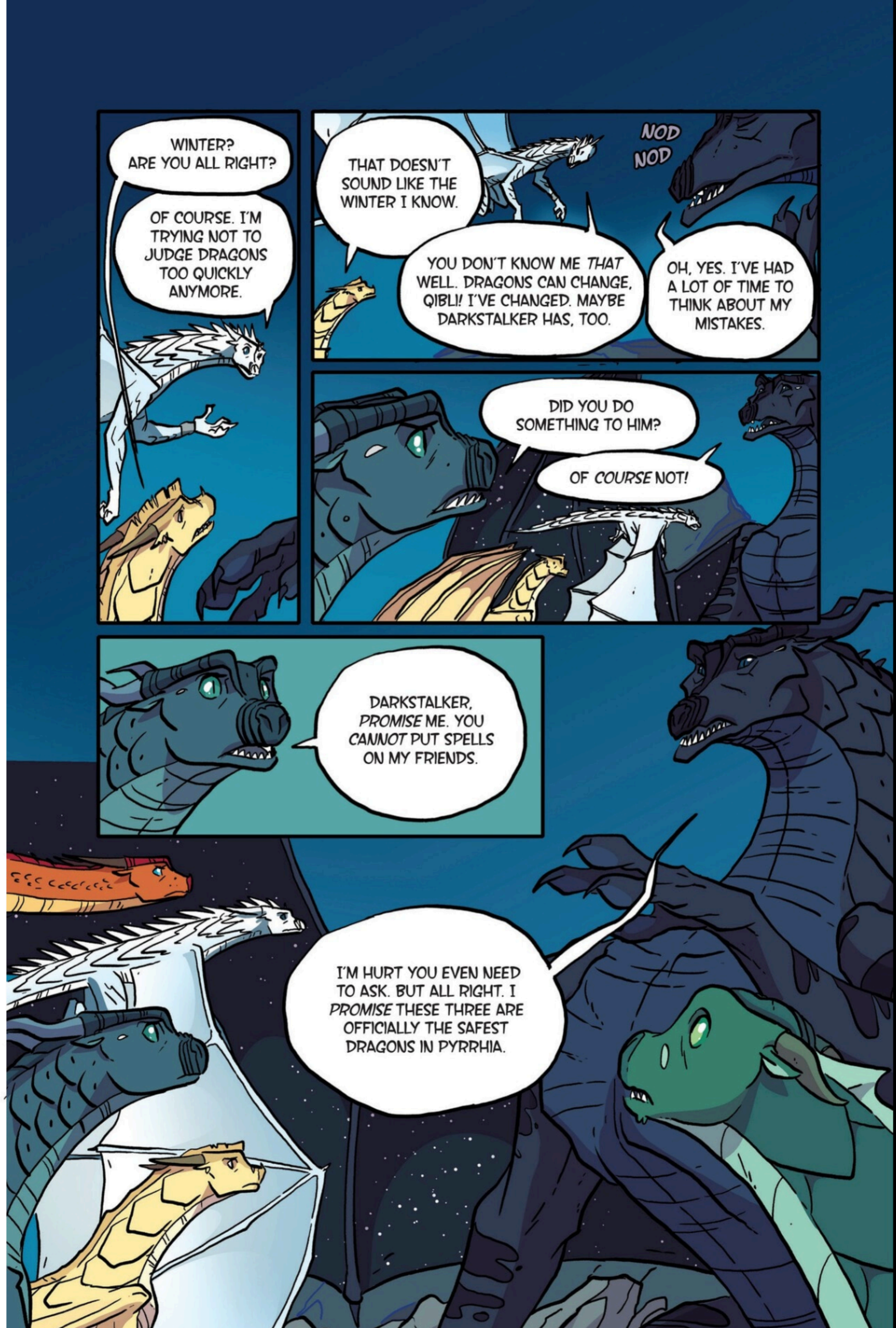

SHOULD HE BE A HERO OR A WRITER? WHY NOT *BOTH*?
THEN HIS CHANCE CAME.
HIS ONE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THE DAY AND BE HIS PARENTS' HERO—BUT HE FAILED, AND THEY HATED HIM, AND HE'D NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
...*DEAD* AND IT'S *YOUR* FAULT.
THAT NIGHT, TURTLE DESTROYED *EVERY BIT* OF WRITING HE'D EVER DONE, AND SWORE HE'D *NEVER* WRITE AGAIN.
turtle the useless
HE *WASN'T* THE HERO, OR THE STORYTELLER. HE WAS THE *IDIOT* WHO FELL OVER HIS CLAWS IN CHAPTER ONE, HAD TO BE RESCUED IN THE FOURTH, AND DIED AT THE END.
SO HE HID HIS POWER AND STAYED IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS PACK OF BROTHERS—AN *ORDINARY, UNMEMORABLE DRAGON* NO ONE WOULD EXPECT ANYTHING FROM—SO HE COULD NEVER DISAPPOINT ANYONE AGAIN.

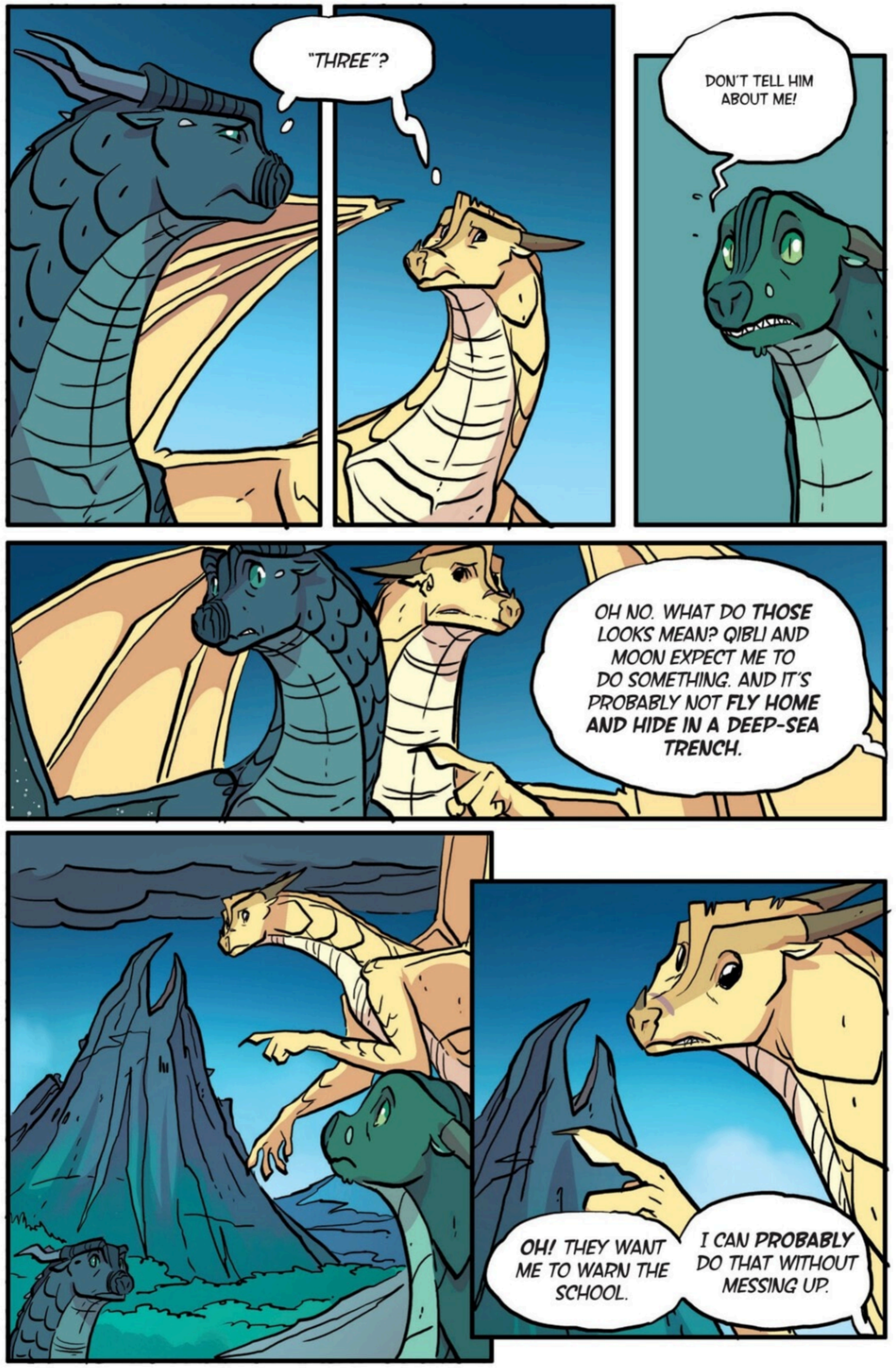

WHY DID I EVER GET MYSELF INTO THIS STORY? I'M NO HERO—I'M THE ONE WHO GETS SACRIFICED SO THE **REAL** HEROES CAN GET ON WITH SAVING THE DAY.
HOW CAN I HIDE FROM A DRAGON WHO'S A MIND READER, AN ANIMUS, **AND** A FUTURE-SEER?
DARKSTALKER CAN'T READ MY MIND WHILE I'M WEARING MY SKYFIRE STONES. MAYBE I HAVE A MILLISECOND TO DO SOMETHING—**ANYTHING**—BEFORE DARKSTALKER FORESEES IT.
I ENCHANT THIS STICK TO **HIDE ME FROM DARKSTALKER.**
AH, THAT'S INFINITELY BETTER. NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, PERIL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.
RRRRAAAAAHH!
OH, PERIL, NO, NO, NO. VERY BRAVE, BUT *TSK TSK*. INVULNERABLE SCALES HERE. ALSO, I'M YOUR FRIEND!

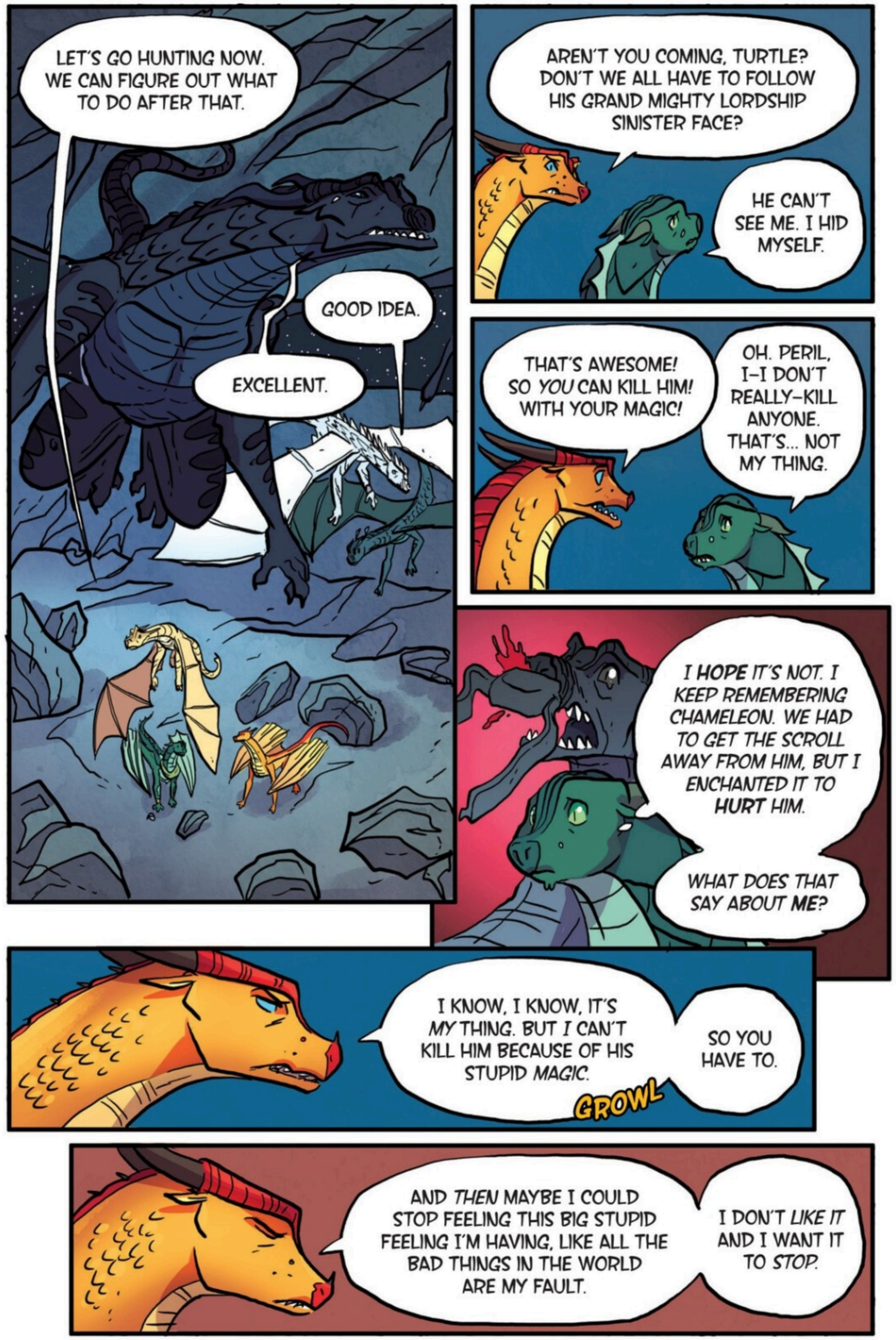

WEREN'T THERE... MORE OF YOU? WASN'T THERE SOMEONE I PARTICULARLY WANTED TO SEE?
DOES HE MEAN **ME? I NEED A BETTER SPELL!**
AS LONG AS THIS STICK IS NEAR ME OR TOUCHING ME, I ENCHANT IT TO HIDE MY **ENTIRE EXISTENCE** FROM DARKSTALKER.
THAT MEANS HE CANNOT SEE ME OR HEAR ME; HE CANNOT REMEMBER THAT HE'S EVER HEARD OF ME; HE CANNOT HEAR ABOUT ME IN OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS OR CONVERSATIONS; AND HE CANNOT SEE ME ANYWHERE IN HIS FUTURES.
I ENCHANT THIS STICK TO COMPLETELY ERASE THE DRAGON HOLDING IT FROM DARKSTALKER'S AWARENESS.

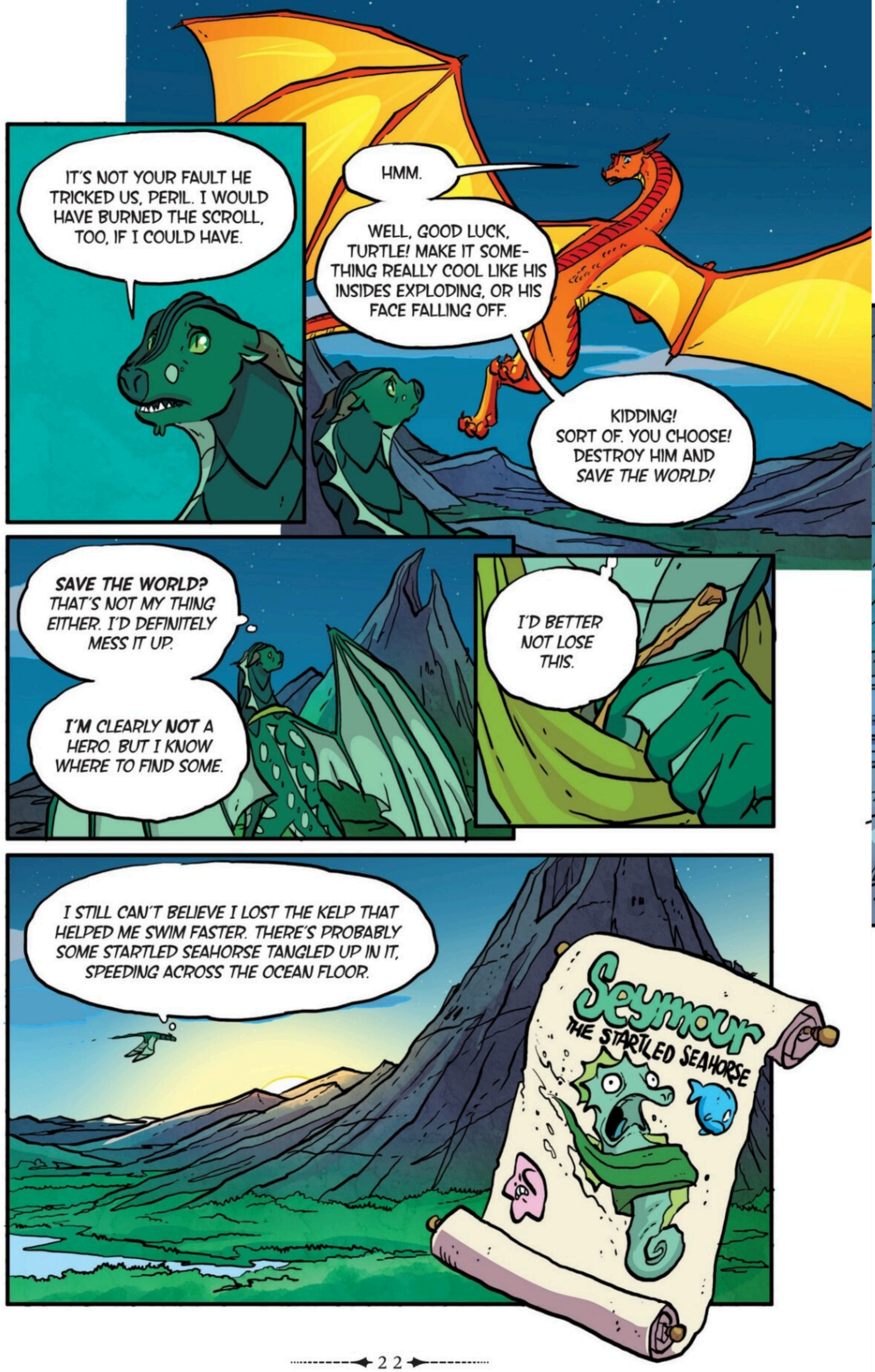

DID IT WORK?
MOON! WE'RE FINALLY MEETING! ISN'T THAT *AMAZING?* WOW, YOU'RE SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT YOU'D BE.
THAT'S YOU, ACTUALLY. YOU'RE... A LOT BIGGER THAN YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER.
WOW, I REALLY AM! TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF GROWING. I MUST BE THE HUGEST DRAGON THAT EVER LIVED!
ALSO THE OLDEST— BY ALL THE SHINING MOONS, I'M ANCIENT!
BEWARE THE DARKNESS OF DRAGONS... BEWARE THE STALKER OF DREAMS...
OH, MOON, COME ON! THAT PART OF THE PROPHECY ISN'T ABOUT *ME.* IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT SCARLET, DON'T YOU THINK? SHE WAS CHOCK-FULL OF DARKNESS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, *SOMETHING IS COMING TO SHAKE THE EARTH?* TOTALLY ME. WATCH THIS!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HOW DID YOU GET OUT?
UH-OH.
I'M GUESSING DARKSTALKER DOESN'T LIKE ICEWINGS VERY MUCH.
OH, THAT WAS PERIL. WHEN SHE SET MY SCROLL ON FIRE, MY MAGIC RETURNED TO ME SO I COULD FREE MYSELF.
WASN'T THAT KIND OF HER?
WAIT—SO YOU *LIED* TO ME.
YOU TOLD ME TO DESTROY THE SCROLL SO IT WOULDN'T FALL INTO EVIL TALONS, EVEN IF IT MEANT YOU'D BE TRAPPED FOREVER. BUT YOU *WANTED* ME TO DESTROY IT! YOU WERE *TRICKING* ME!
YES, BUT LUCKY I DID, RIGHT? OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE FREED ME. NOT VERY KIND, MOON.
YOU SHOULDN'T TRICK YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU ALSO SHOULDN'T LEAVE YOUR FRIENDS TRAPPED UNDER A MOUNTAIN FOR THE REST OF THEIR IMMORTAL LIVES. *GOOD POINT,* DARKSTALKER.

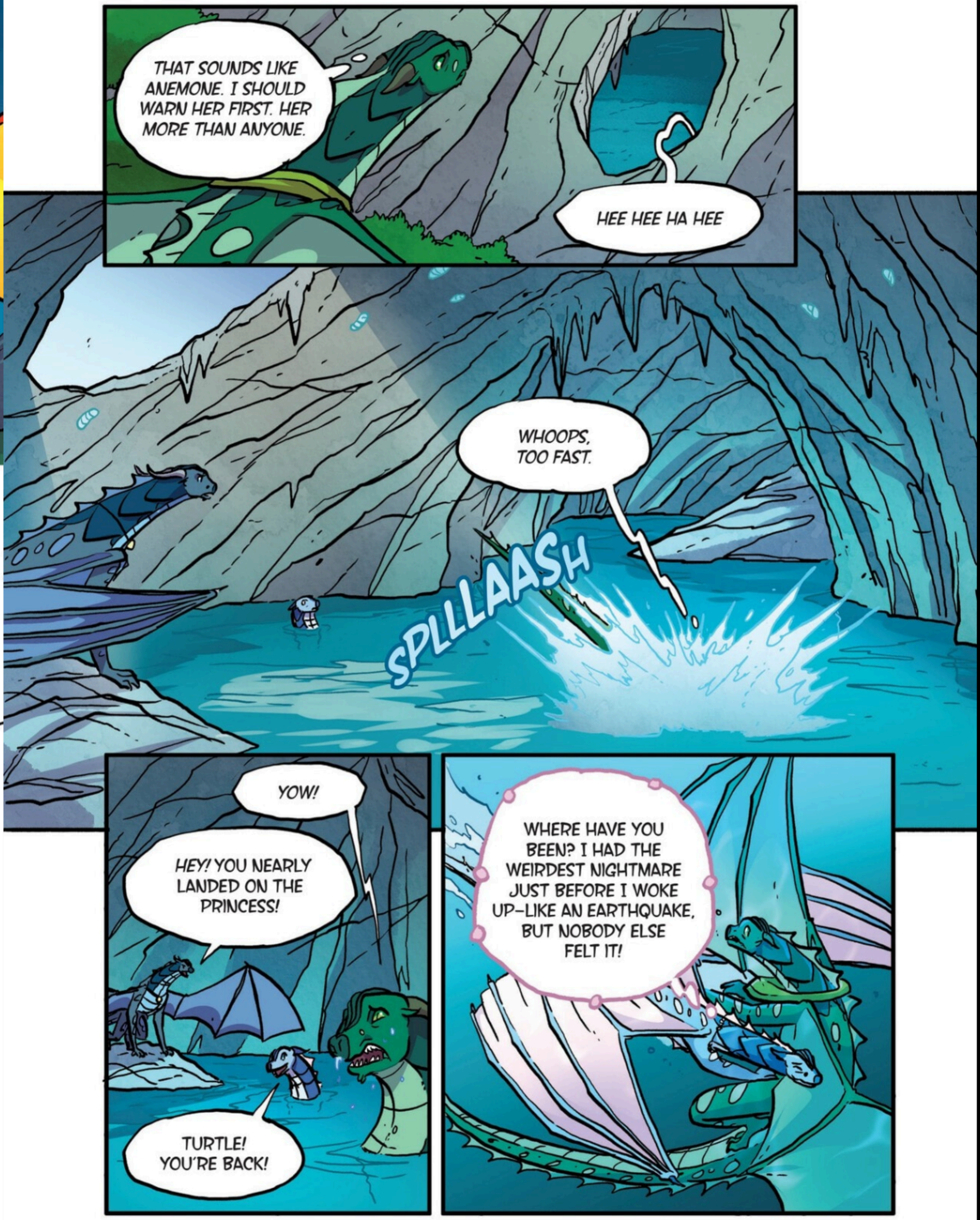

CHEER UP! I JUST WANT TO HAVE FRIENDS AGAIN AND HUNT AND FLY AND *EAT SOMETHING*. CAN'T WE SAVE THE *OH NO, YOU'RE SO SINISTER* TALON-WRINGING FOR LATER?
WHAT DO YOU SAY? GIVE ME A CHANCE? LET'S ALL GO HUNTING!
I'M NOT GOING WITH YOU. YOU'RE NOT THE QUEEN OF ME!
ME NEITHER. THE ICEWINGS HAVE LEGENDS ABOUT YOU. WE *KNOW* WHAT YOU DID TO US. AND I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM—
I'M NOT ORDERING YOU, PRINCE WINTER.
BUT I THINK YOU KNOW OLD LEGENDS DON'T TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH. A DRAGON SHOULDN'T BE JUDGED BY WHAT OTHER DRAGONS SAY.
YOU MAY FIND I'M AN *ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL* DRAGON.
YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S START OVER.

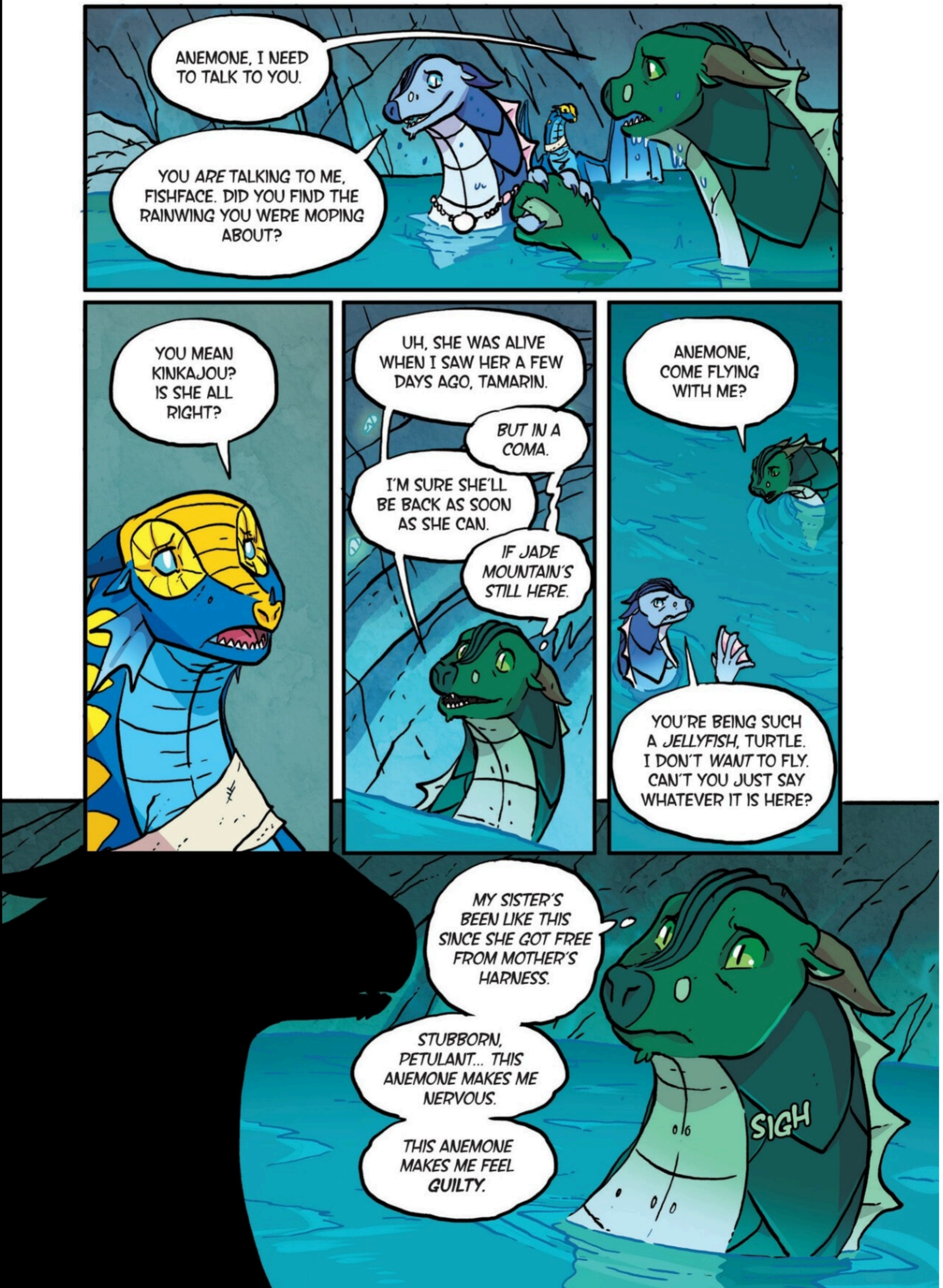

WINTER? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OF COURSE. I'M TRYING NOT TO JUDGE DRAGONS TOO QUICKLY ANYMORE.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE WINTER I KNOW.
NOD NOD
YOU DON'T KNOW ME *THAT* WELL. DRAGONS CAN CHANGE, QIBLI! I'VE CHANGED. MAYBE DARKSTALKER HAS, TOO.
OH, YES. I'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT MY MISTAKES.
DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO HIM?
OF *COURSE* NOT!
DARKSTALKER, *PROMISE* ME. YOU *CANNOT* PUT SPELLS ON MY FRIENDS.
I'M HURT YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK. BUT ALL RIGHT. I *PROMISE* THESE THREE ARE OFFICIALLY THE SAFEST DRAGONS IN PYRRHIA.

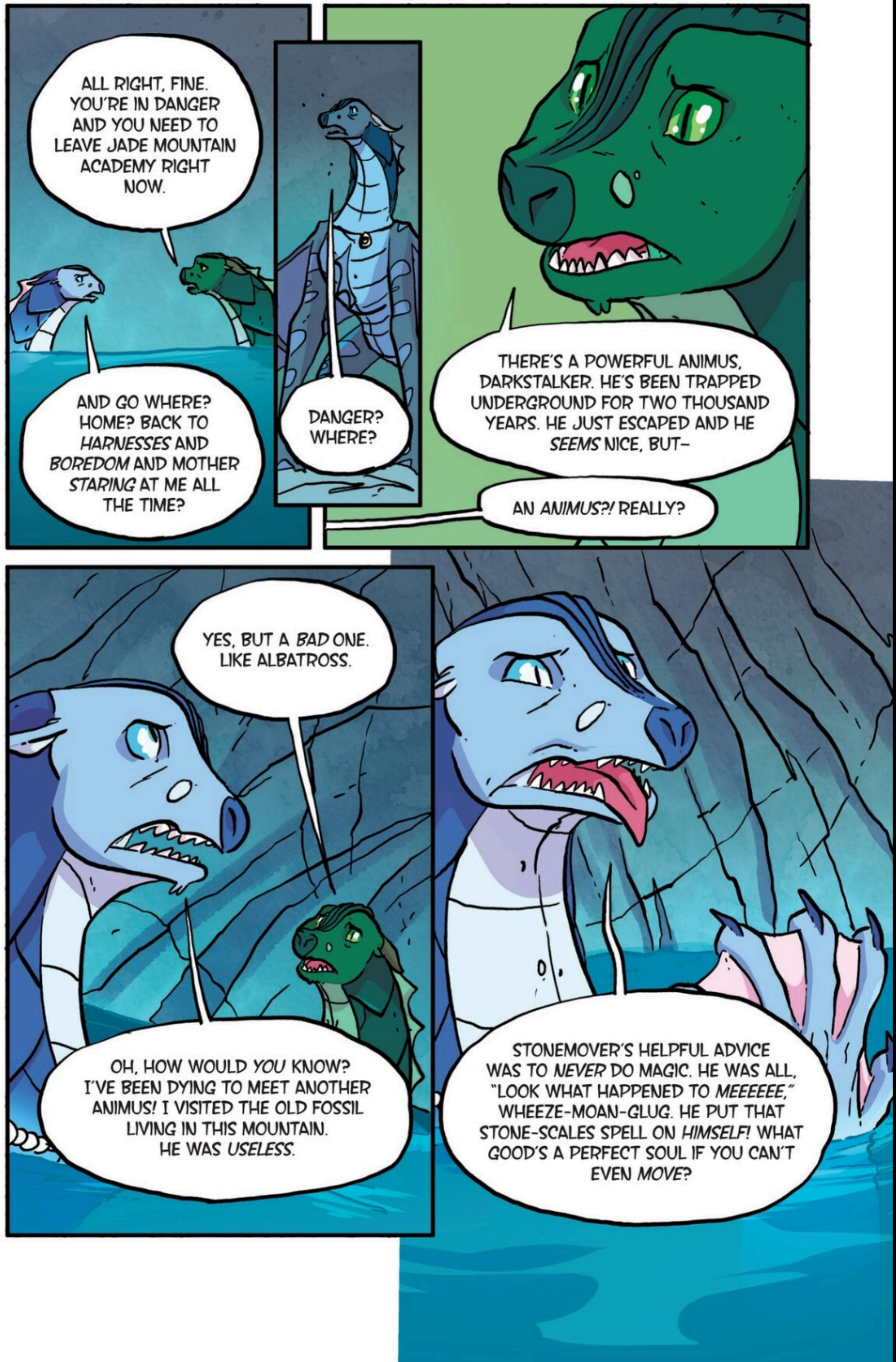

"THREE"?
DON'T TELL HIM ABOUT ME!
*OH NO. WHAT DO **THOSE** LOOKS MEAN? QIBLI AND MOON EXPECT ME TO DO SOMETHING. AND IT'S PROBABLY NOT **FLY HOME AND HIDE IN A DEEP-SEA TRENCH.***
***OH!** THEY WANT ME TO WARN THE SCHOOL.*
*I CAN **PROBABLY** DO THAT WITHOUT MESSING UP.*

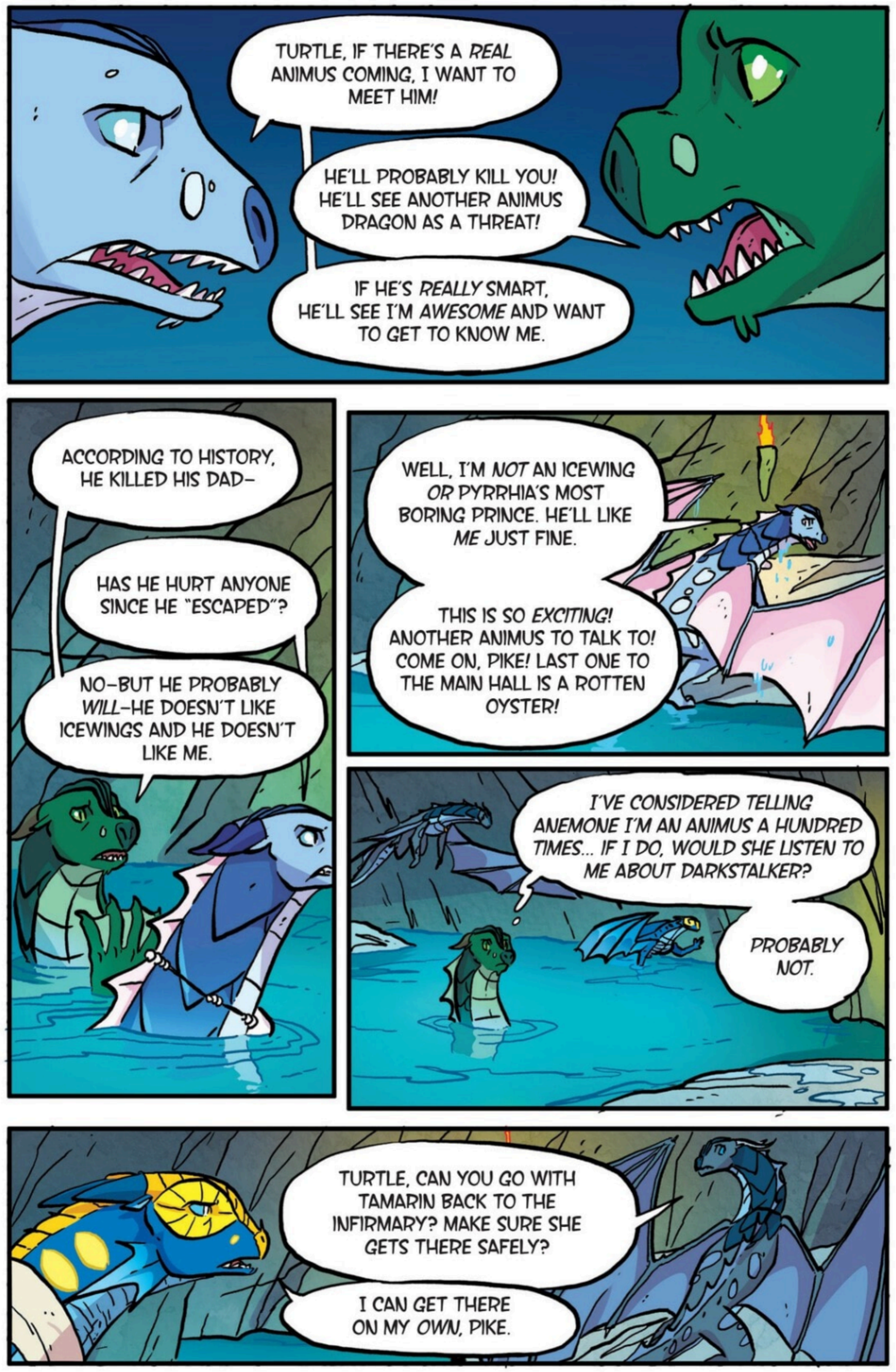

LET'S GO HUNTING NOW. WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO AFTER THAT.
GOOD IDEA.
EXCELLENT.
AREN'T YOU COMING, TURTLE? DON'T WE ALL HAVE TO FOLLOW HIS GRAND MIGHTY LORDSHIP SINISTER FACE?
HE CAN'T SEE ME. I HID MYSELF.
THAT'S AWESOME! SO *YOU* CAN KILL HIM! WITH YOUR MAGIC!
OH. PERIL, I—I DON'T REALLY—KILL ANYONE. THAT'S... NOT MY THING.
*I **HOPE** IT'S NOT. I KEEP REMEMBERING CHAMELEON. WE HAD TO GET THE SCROLL AWAY FROM HIM, BUT I ENCHANTED IT TO **HURT** HIM.*
*WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT **ME**?*
I KNOW, I KNOW, IT'S *MY* THING. BUT *I* CAN'T KILL HIM BECAUSE OF HIS STUPID *MAGIC*.
GROWL
SO YOU HAVE TO.
AND *THEN* MAYBE I COULD STOP FEELING THIS BIG STUPID FEELING I'M HAVING, LIKE ALL THE BAD THINGS IN THE WORLD ARE MY FAULT.
I DON'T *LIKE IT* AND I WANT IT TO *STOP.*

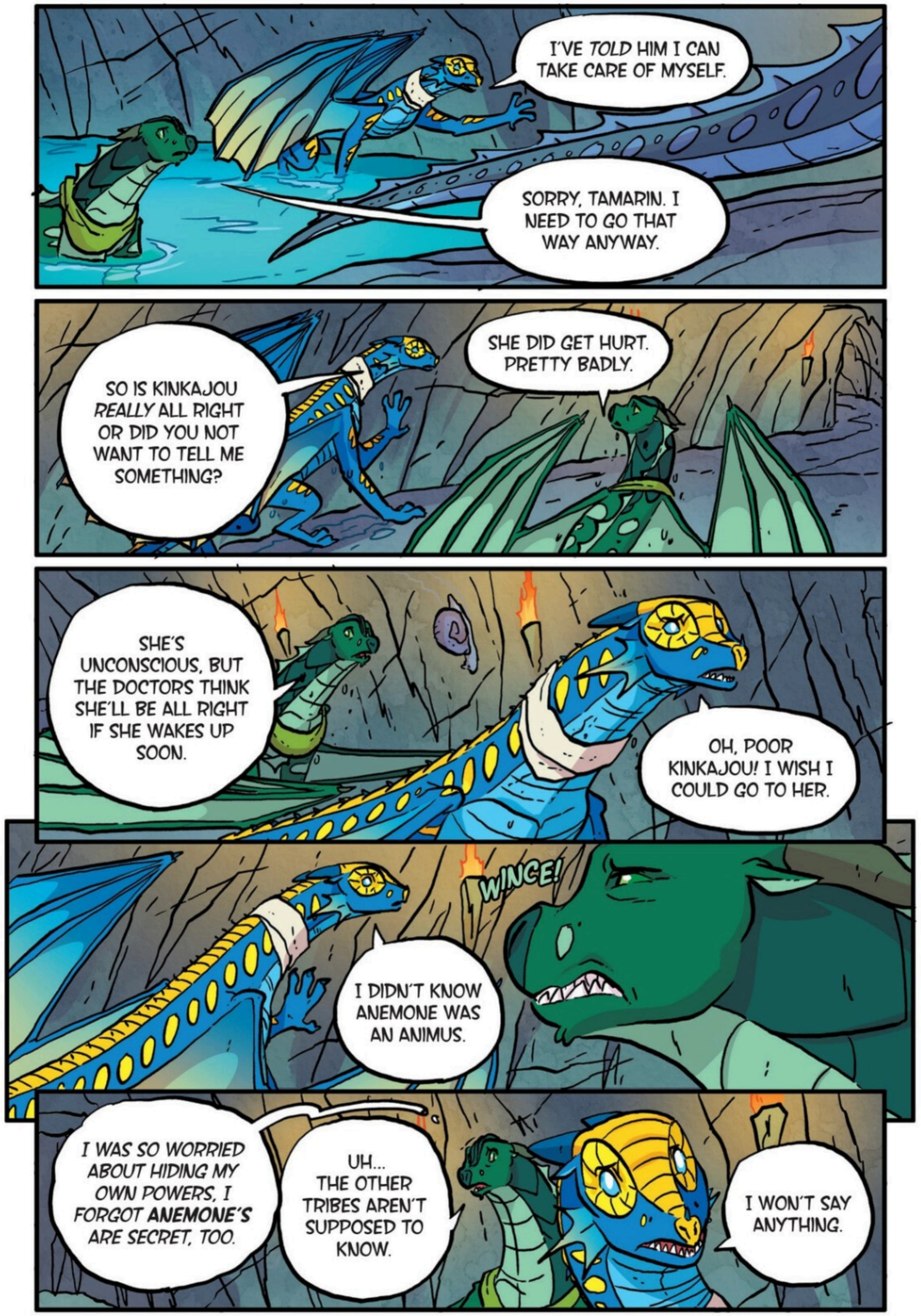

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT HE TRICKED US, PERIL. I WOULD HAVE BURNED THE SCROLL, TOO, IF I COULD HAVE.
HMM.
WELL, GOOD LUCK, TURTLE! MAKE IT SOMETHING REALLY COOL LIKE HIS INSIDES EXPLODING, OR HIS FACE FALLING OFF.
KIDDING! SORT OF. YOU CHOOSE! DESTROY HIM AND *SAVE THE WORLD!*
SAVE THE WORLD? THAT'S NOT MY THING EITHER. I'D DEFINITELY MESS IT UP.
*I'M CLEARLY **NOT** A HERO. BUT I KNOW WHERE TO FIND SOME.*
I'D BETTER NOT LOSE THIS.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST THE KELP THAT HELPED ME SWIM FASTER. THERE'S PROBABLY SOME STARTLED SEAHORSE TANGLED UP IN IT, SPEEDING ACROSS THE OCEAN FLOOR.
Seymour
THE STARTLED SEAHORSE

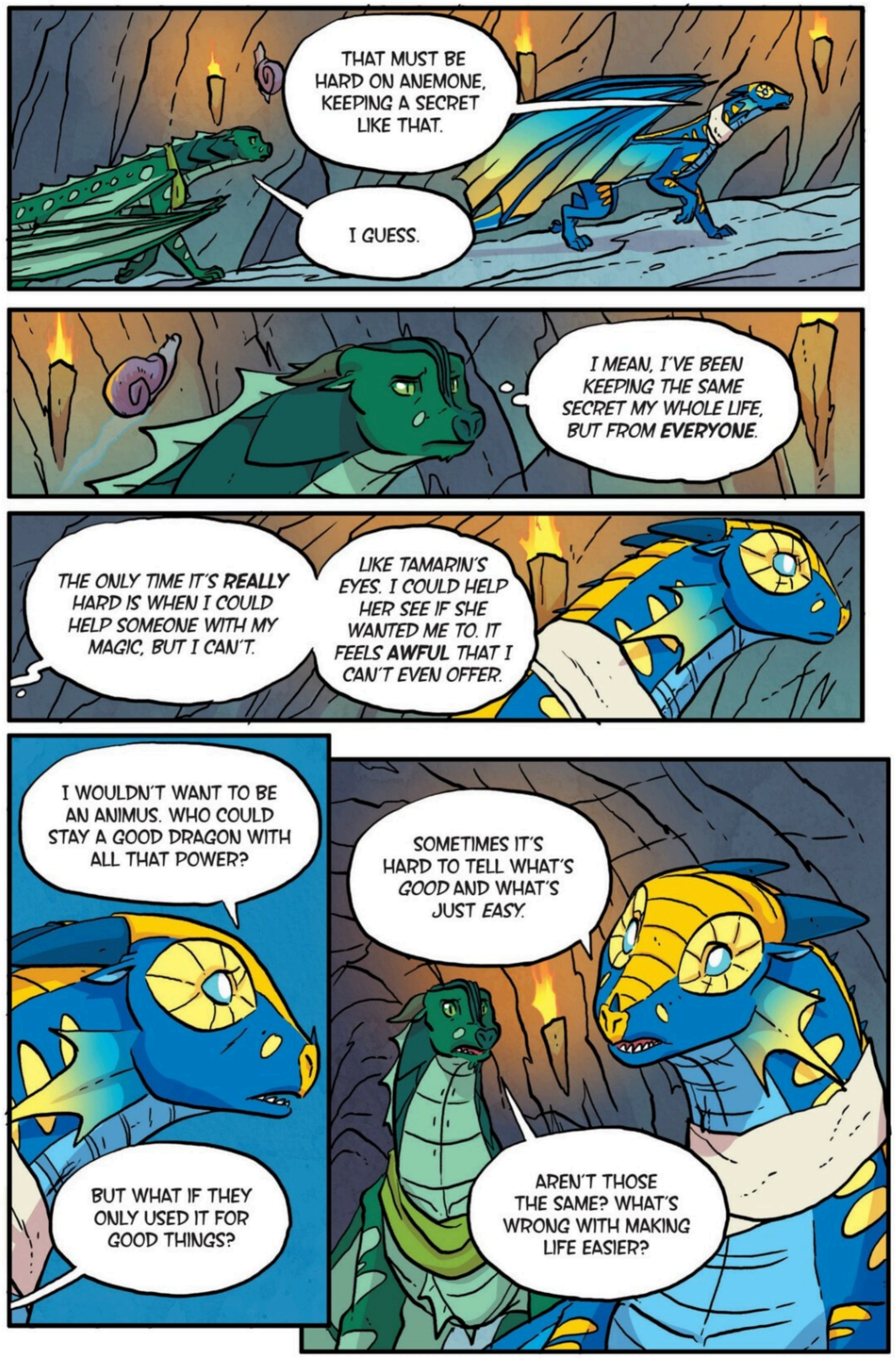

THAT SOUNDS LIKE ANEMONE. I SHOULD WARN HER FIRST. HER MORE THAN ANYONE.
HEE HEE HA HEE
WHOOPS, TOO FAST.
SPLLLAASH
YOW!
HEY! YOU NEARLY LANDED ON THE PRINCESS!
TURTLE! YOU'RE BACK!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I HAD THE WEIRDEST NIGHTMARE JUST BEFORE I WOKE UP—LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE, BUT NOBODY ELSE FELT IT!

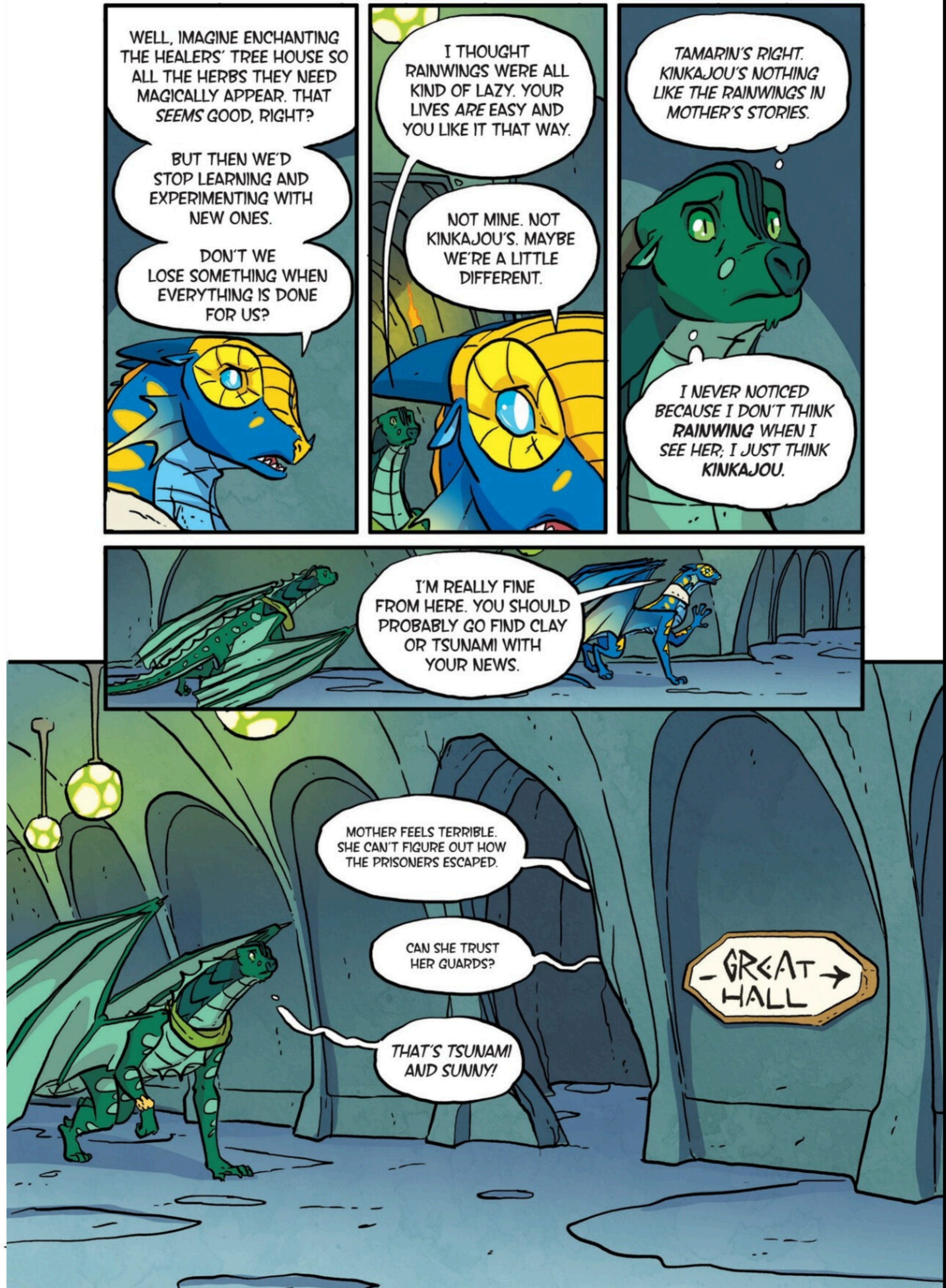

ANEMONE, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
YOU *ARE* TALKING TO ME, FISHFACE. DID YOU FIND THE RAINWING YOU WERE MOPING ABOUT?
YOU MEAN KINKAJOU? IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
UH, SHE WAS ALIVE WHEN I SAW HER A FEW DAYS AGO, TAMARIN.
BUT IN A COMA.
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS SHE CAN.
IF JADE MOUNTAIN'S STILL HERE.
ANEMONE, COME FLYING WITH ME?
YOU'RE BEING SUCH A *JELLYFISH*, TURTLE. I DON'T *WANT* TO FLY. CAN'T YOU JUST SAY WHATEVER IT IS HERE?
MY SISTER'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE SHE GOT FREE FROM MOTHER'S HARNESS.
STUBBORN, PETULANT... THIS ANEMONE MAKES ME NERVOUS.
THIS ANEMONE MAKES ME FEEL ***GUILTY.***
SIGH

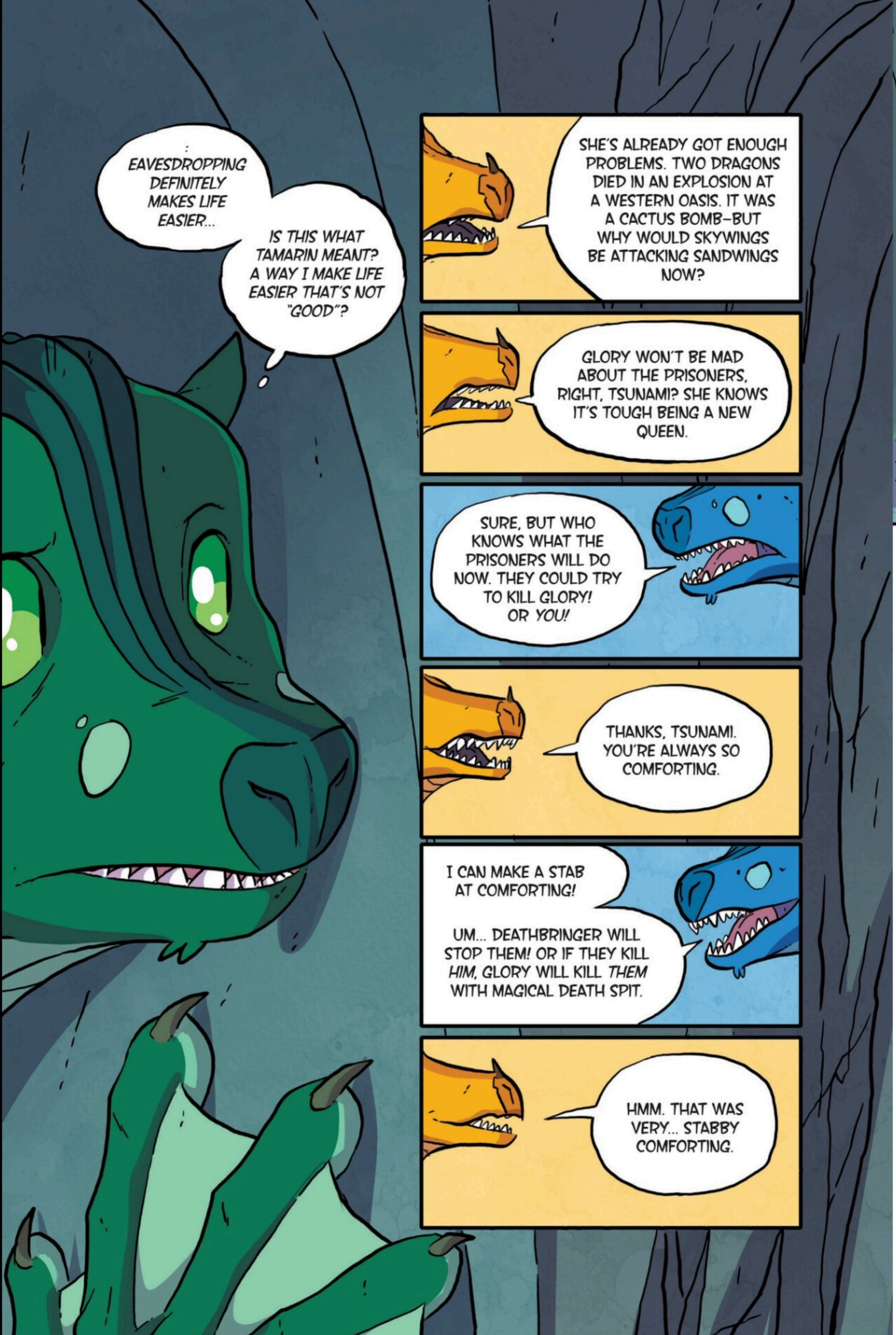

ALL RIGHT, FINE. YOU'RE IN DANGER AND YOU NEED TO LEAVE JADE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY RIGHT NOW.
AND GO WHERE? HOME? BACK TO *HARNESSES* AND *BOREDOM* AND MOTHER *STARING* AT ME ALL THE TIME?
DANGER? WHERE?
THERE'S A POWERFUL ANIMUS, DARKSTALKER. HE'S BEEN TRAPPED UNDERGROUND FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS. HE JUST ESCAPED AND HE *SEEMS* NICE, BUT–
AN *ANIMUS?!* REALLY?
YES, BUT A *BAD* ONE. LIKE ALBATROSS.
OH, HOW WOULD *YOU* KNOW? I'VE BEEN DYING TO MEET ANOTHER ANIMUS! I VISITED THE OLD FOSSIL LIVING IN THIS MOUNTAIN. HE WAS *USELESS*.
STONEMOVER'S HELPFUL ADVICE WAS TO *NEVER* DO MAGIC. HE WAS ALL, "LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO *MEEEEEE*," WHEEZE-MOAN-GLUG. HE PUT THAT STONE-SCALES SPELL ON *HIMSELF*! WHAT GOOD'S A PERFECT SOUL IF YOU CAN'T EVEN *MOVE*?

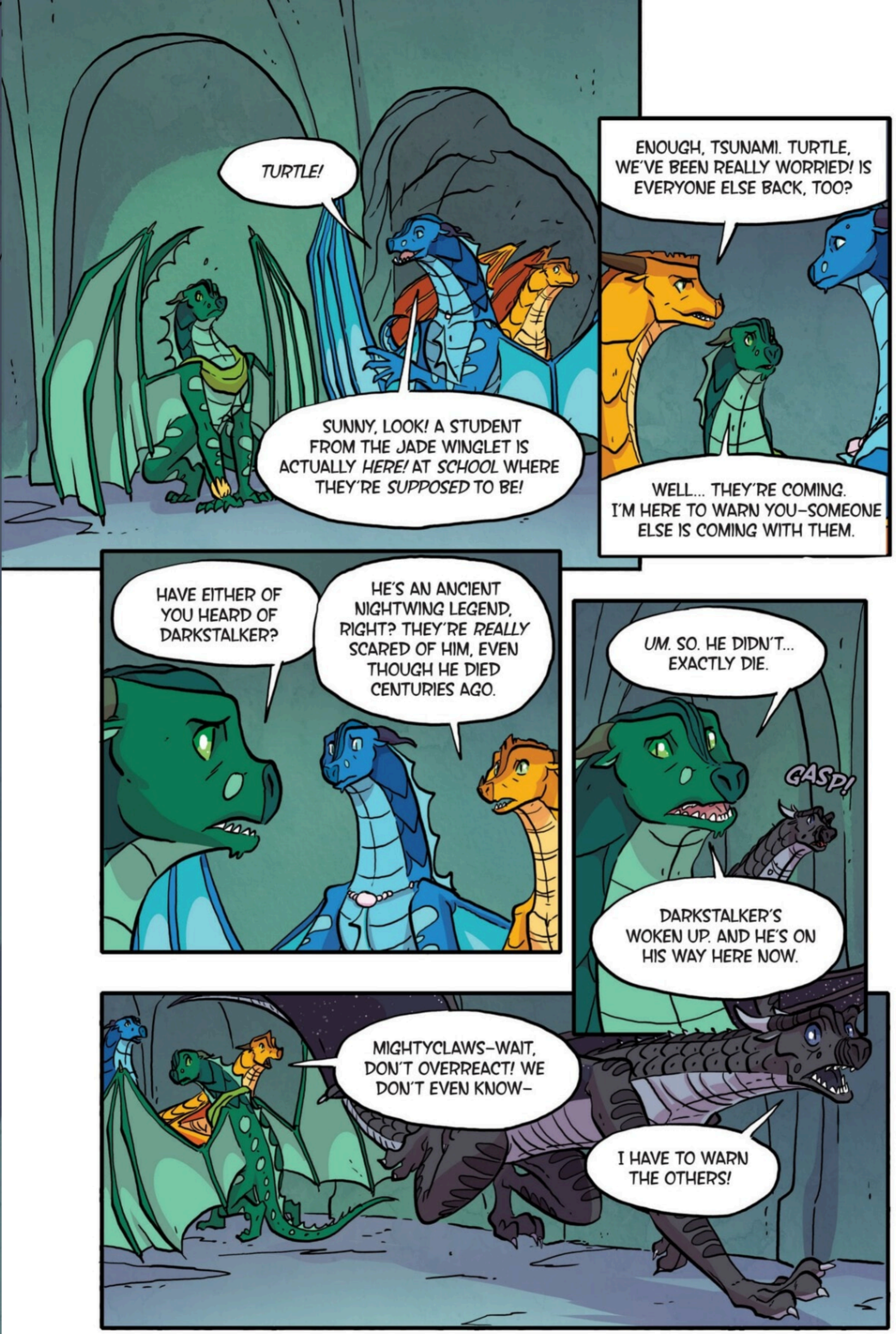

TURTLE, IF THERE'S A *REAL* ANIMUS COMING, I WANT TO MEET HIM!
HE'LL PROBABLY KILL YOU! HE'LL SEE ANOTHER ANIMUS DRAGON AS A THREAT!
IF HE'S *REALLY* SMART, HE'LL SEE I'M *AWESOME* AND WANT TO GET TO KNOW ME.
ACCORDING TO HISTORY, HE KILLED HIS DAD—
HAS HE HURT ANYONE SINCE HE "ESCAPED"?
NO—BUT HE PROBABLY *WILL*—HE DOESN'T LIKE ICEWINGS AND HE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
WELL, I'M *NOT* AN ICEWING *OR* PYRRHIA'S MOST BORING PRINCE. HE'LL LIKE *ME* JUST FINE.
THIS IS SO *EXCITING!* ANOTHER ANIMUS TO TALK TO! COME ON, PIKE! LAST ONE TO THE MAIN HALL IS A ROTTEN OYSTER!
I'VE CONSIDERED TELLING ANEMONE I'M AN ANIMUS A HUNDRED TIMES... IF I DO, WOULD SHE LISTEN TO ME ABOUT DARKSTALKER?
PROBABLY NOT.
TURTLE, CAN YOU GO WITH TAMARIN BACK TO THE INFIRMARY? MAKE SURE SHE GETS THERE SAFELY?
I CAN GET THERE ON MY *OWN*, PIKE.

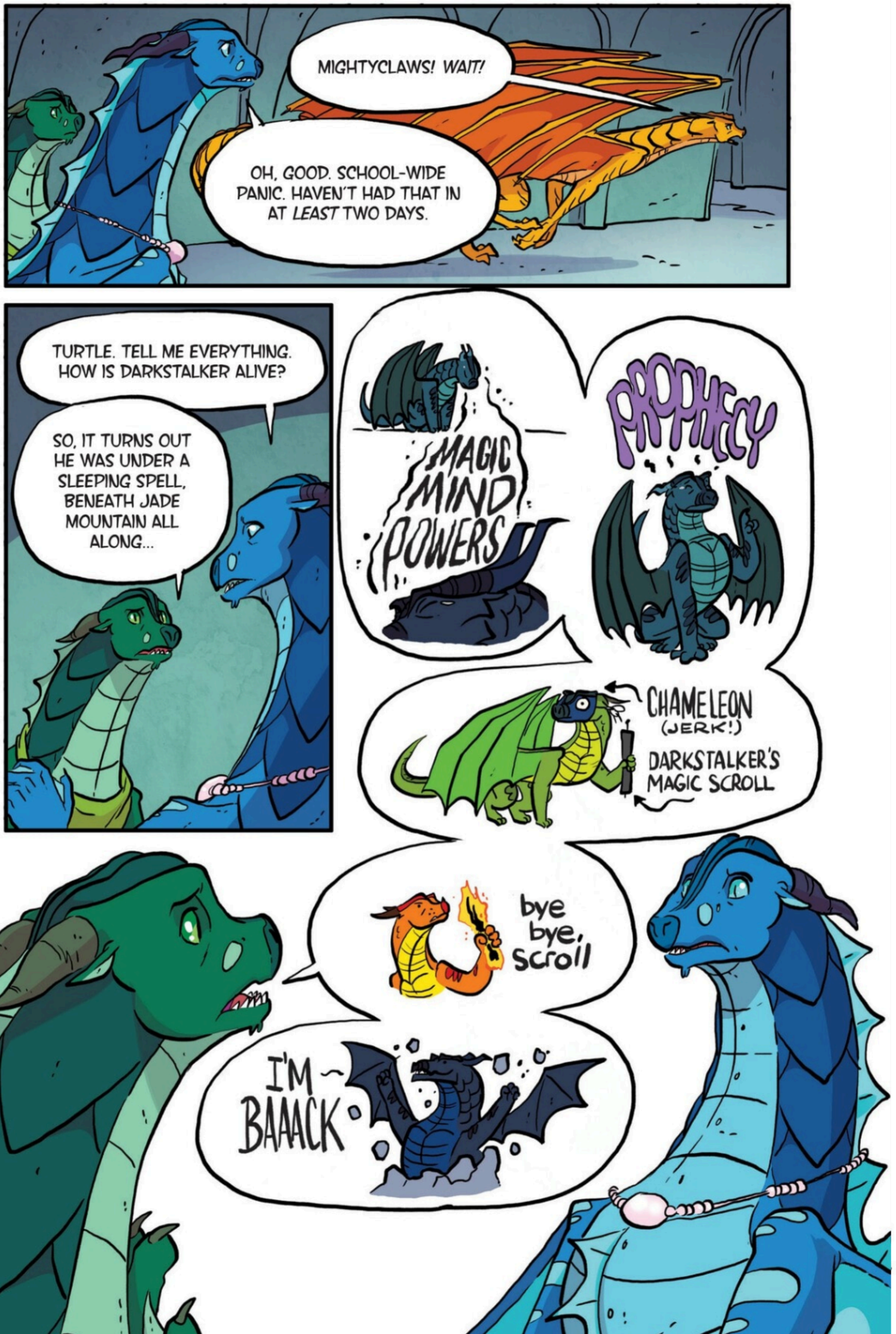

I'VE *TOLD* HIM I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
SORRY, TAMARIN. I NEED TO GO THAT WAY ANYWAY.
SO IS KINKAJOU *REALLY* ALL RIGHT OR DID YOU NOT WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING?
SHE DID GET HURT. PRETTY BADLY.
SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS, BUT THE DOCTORS THINK SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF SHE WAKES UP SOON.
OH, POOR KINKAJOU! I WISH I COULD GO TO HER.
WINCE!
I DIDN'T KNOW ANEMONE WAS AN ANIMUS.
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT HIDING MY OWN POWERS, I FORGOT ***ANEMONE'S*** *ARE SECRET, TOO.*
UH... THE OTHER TRIBES AREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW.
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.

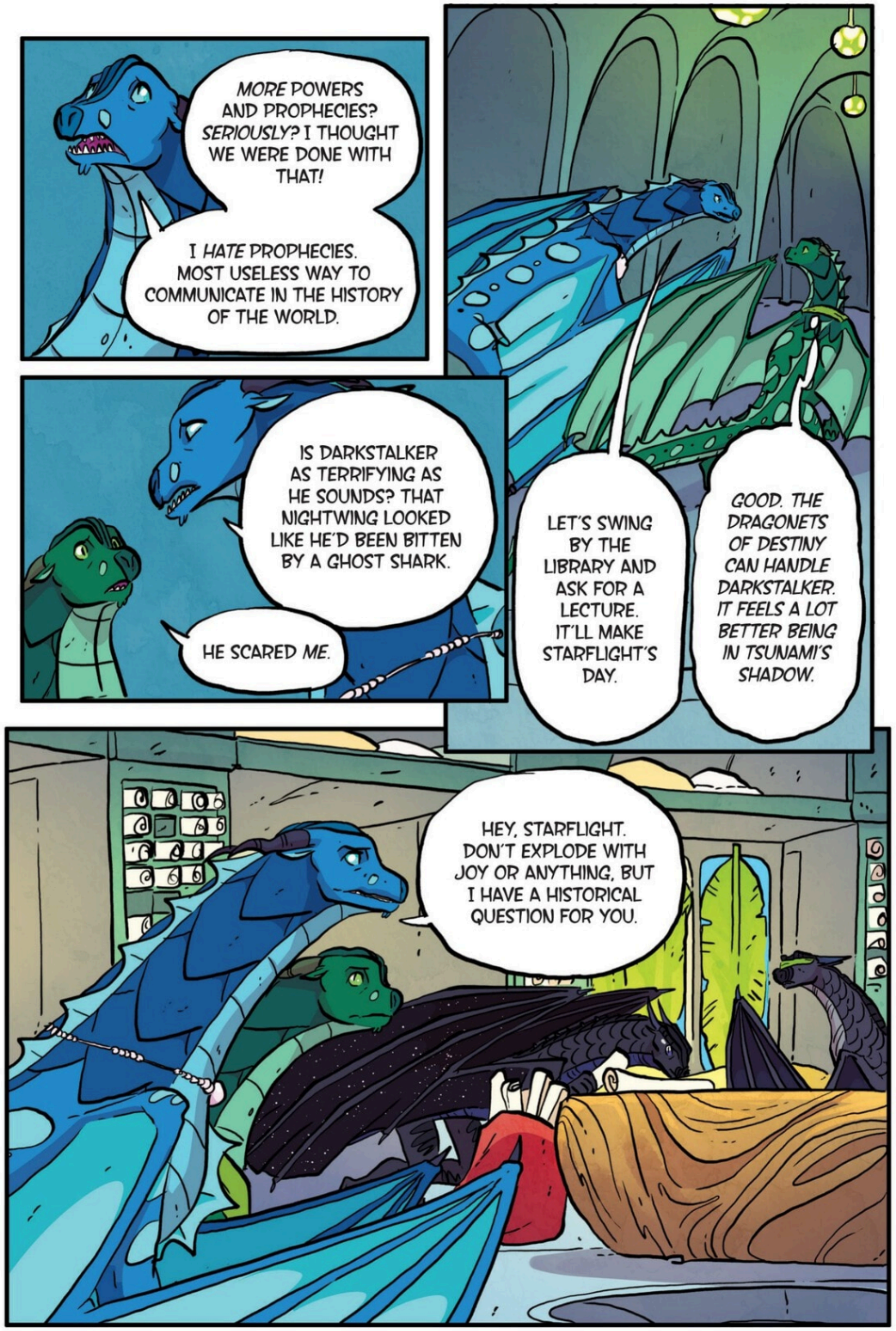

THAT MUST BE HARD ON ANEMONE, KEEPING A SECRET LIKE THAT.
I GUESS.
I MEAN, I'VE BEEN KEEPING THE SAME SECRET MY WHOLE LIFE, BUT FROM ***EVERYONE****.*
THE ONLY TIME IT'S ***REALLY*** *HARD IS WHEN I COULD HELP SOMEONE WITH MY MAGIC, BUT I CAN'T.*
LIKE TAMARIN'S EYES. I COULD HELP HER SEE IF SHE WANTED ME TO. IT FEELS ***AWFUL*** *THAT I CAN'T EVEN OFFER.*
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE AN ANIMUS. WHO COULD STAY A GOOD DRAGON WITH ALL THAT POWER?
BUT WHAT IF THEY ONLY USED IT FOR GOOD THINGS?
SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT'S *GOOD* AND WHAT'S JUST *EASY*.
AREN'T THOSE THE SAME? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MAKING LIFE EASIER?

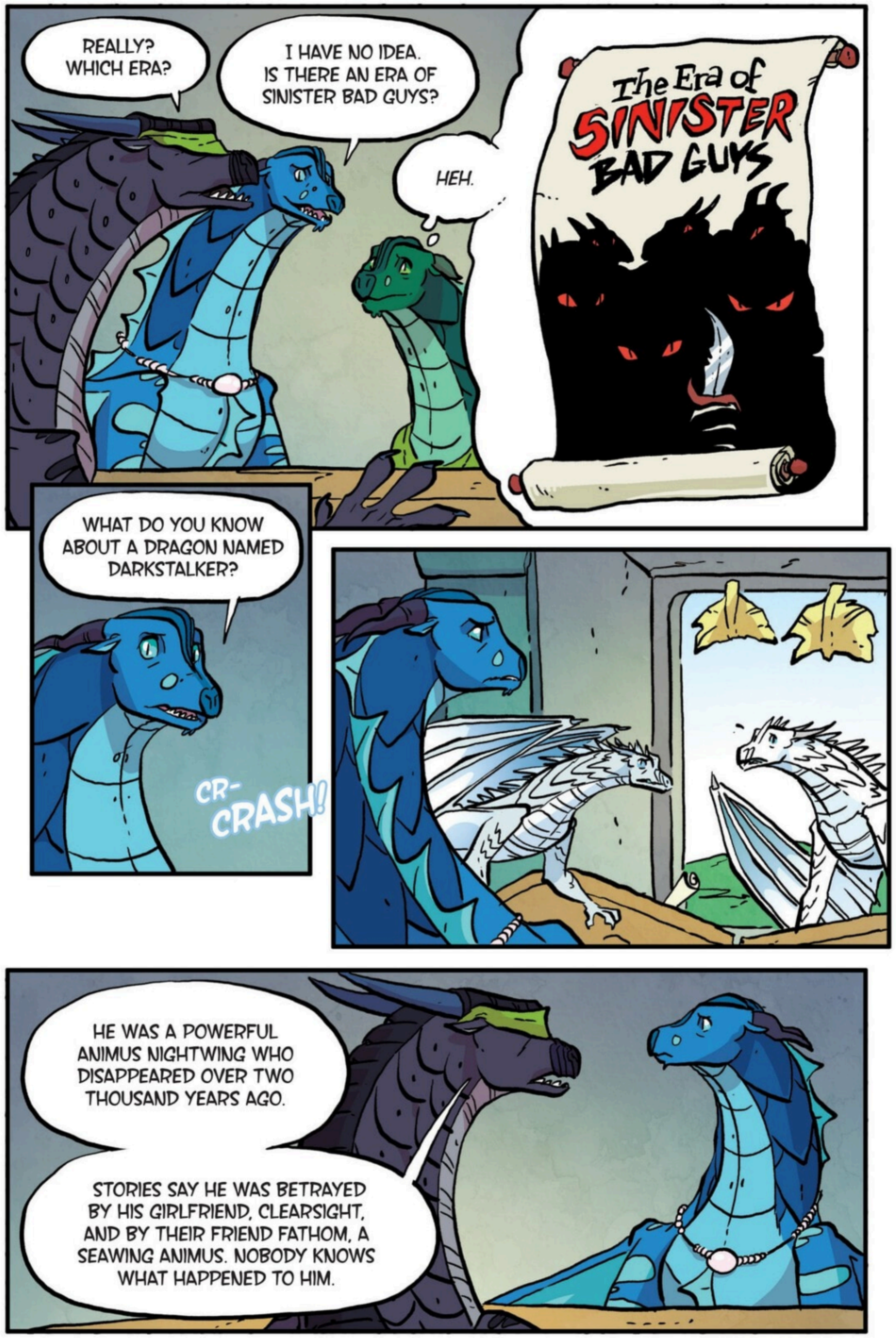

WELL, IMAGINE ENCHANTING THE HEALERS' TREE HOUSE SO ALL THE HERBS THEY NEED MAGICALLY APPEAR. THAT *SEEMS* GOOD, RIGHT?
BUT THEN WE'D STOP LEARNING AND EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW ONES.
DON'T WE LOSE SOMETHING WHEN EVERYTHING IS DONE FOR US?
I THOUGHT RAINWINGS WERE ALL KIND OF LAZY. YOUR LIVES *ARE* EASY AND YOU LIKE IT THAT WAY.
NOT MINE. NOT KINKAJOU'S. MAYBE WE'RE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
TAMARIN'S RIGHT. KINKAJOU'S NOTHING LIKE THE RAINWINGS IN MOTHER'S STORIES.
I NEVER NOTICED BECAUSE I DON'T THINK ***RAINWING*** *WHEN I SEE HER; I JUST THINK* ***KINKAJOU****.*
I'M REALLY FINE FROM HERE. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO FIND CLAY OR TSUNAMI WITH YOUR NEWS.
MOTHER FEELS TERRIBLE. SHE CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW THE PRISONERS ESCAPED.
CAN SHE TRUST HER GUARDS?
THAT'S TSUNAMI AND SUNNY!
GREAT HALL →

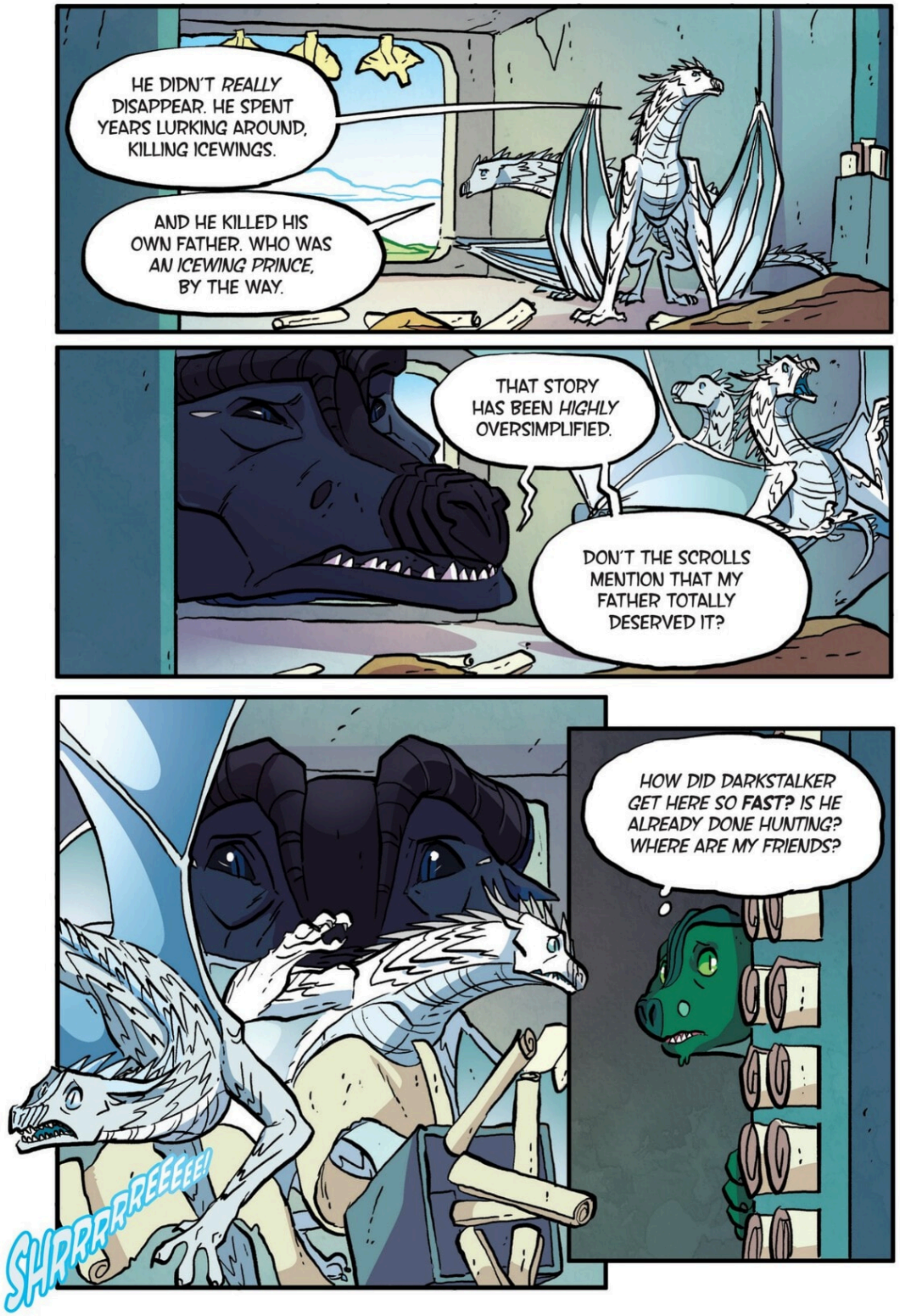

EAVESDROPPING DEFINITELY MAKES LIFE EASIER...
IS THIS WHAT TAMARIN MEANT? A WAY I MAKE LIFE EASIER THAT'S NOT "GOOD"?
SHE'S ALREADY GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS. TWO DRAGONS DIED IN AN EXPLOSION AT A WESTERN OASIS. IT WAS A CACTUS BOMB—BUT WHY WOULD SKYWINGS BE ATTACKING SANDWINGS NOW?
GLORY WON'T BE MAD ABOUT THE PRISONERS, RIGHT, TSUNAMI? SHE KNOWS IT'S TOUGH BEING A NEW QUEEN.
SURE, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT THE PRISONERS WILL DO NOW. THEY COULD TRY TO KILL GLORY! OR *YOU!*
THANKS, TSUNAMI. YOU'RE ALWAYS SO COMFORTING.
I CAN MAKE A STAB AT COMFORTING! UM... DEATHBRINGER WILL STOP THEM! OR IF THEY KILL *HIM*, GLORY WILL KILL *THEM* WITH MAGICAL DEATH SPIT.
HMM. THAT WAS VERY... STABBY COMFORTING.

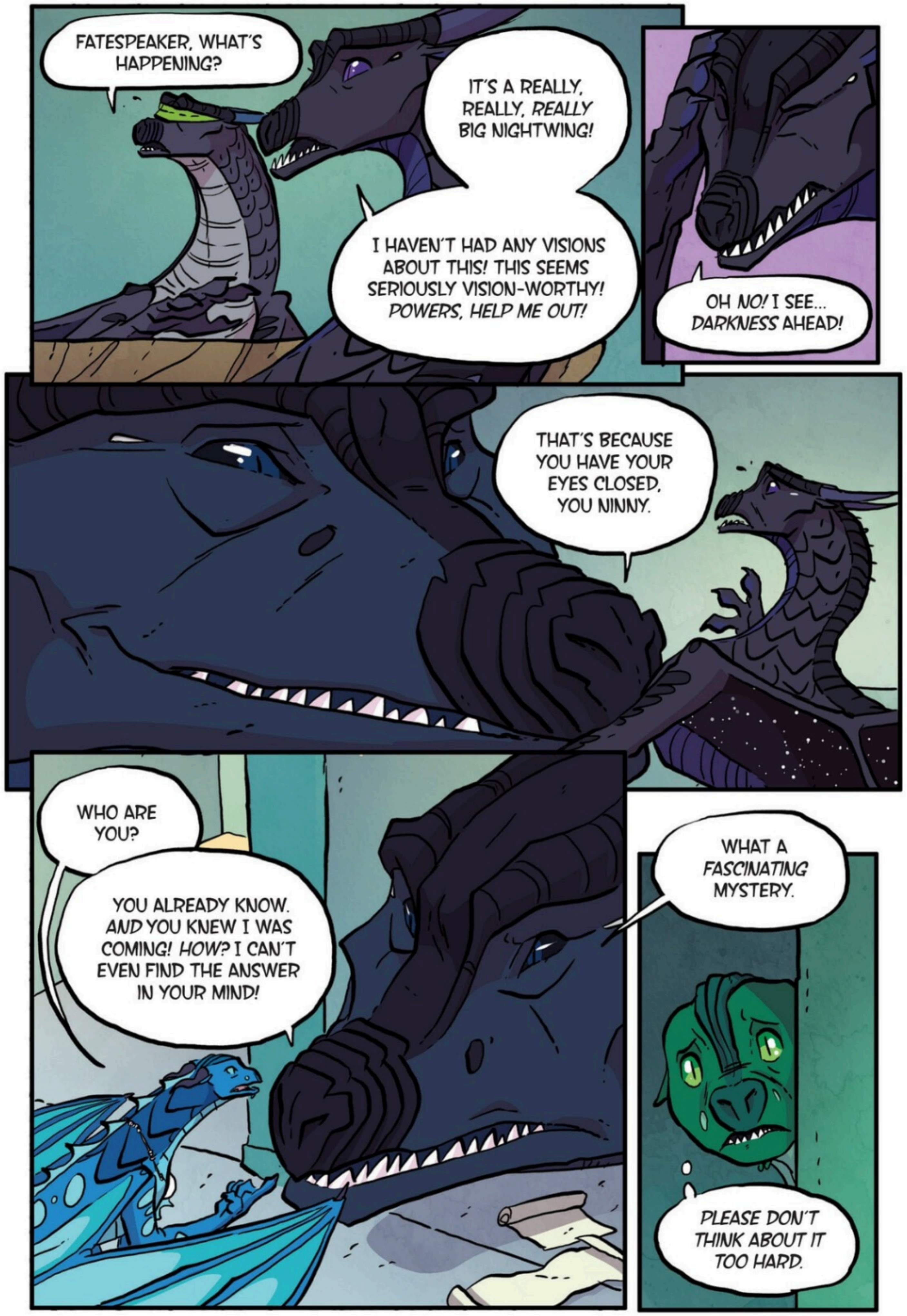

TURTLE!
SUNNY, LOOK! A STUDENT FROM THE JADE WINGLET IS ACTUALLY *HERE!* AT *SCHOOL* WHERE THEY'RE *SUPPOSED* TO BE!
ENOUGH, TSUNAMI. TURTLE, WE'VE BEEN REALLY WORRIED! IS EVERYONE ELSE BACK, TOO?
WELL... THEY'RE COMING. I'M HERE TO WARN YOU—SOMEONE ELSE IS COMING WITH THEM.
HAVE EITHER OF YOU HEARD OF DARKSTALKER?
HE'S AN ANCIENT NIGHTWING LEGEND, RIGHT? THEY'RE *REALLY* SCARED OF HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE DIED CENTURIES AGO.
UM. SO. HE DIDN'T... EXACTLY DIE.
GASP!
DARKSTALKER'S WOKEN UP. AND HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE NOW.
MIGHTYCLAWS—WAIT, DON'T OVERREACT! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW—
I HAVE TO WARN THE OTHERS!

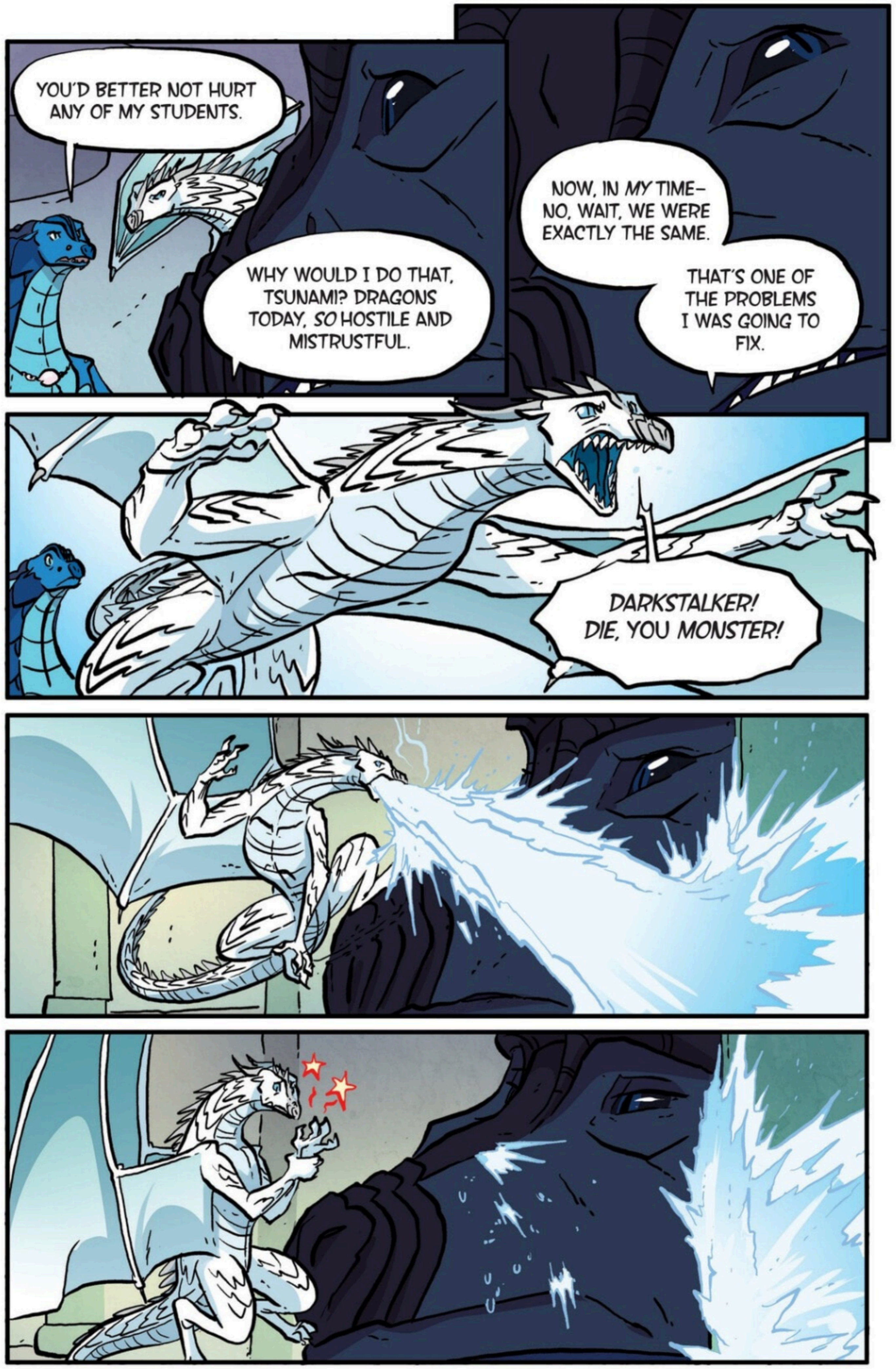

MIGHTYCLAWS! *WAIT!*
OH, GOOD. SCHOOL-WIDE PANIC. HAVEN'T HAD THAT IN AT *LEAST* TWO DAYS.
TURTLE. TELL ME EVERYTHING. HOW IS DARKSTALKER ALIVE?
SO, IT TURNS OUT HE WAS UNDER A SLEEPING SPELL, BENEATH JADE MOUNTAIN ALL ALONG...
MAGIC MIND POWERS
PROPHECY
CHAMELEON (JERK!)
DARKSTALKER'S MAGIC SCROLL
bye bye, scroll
I'M~ BAAACK

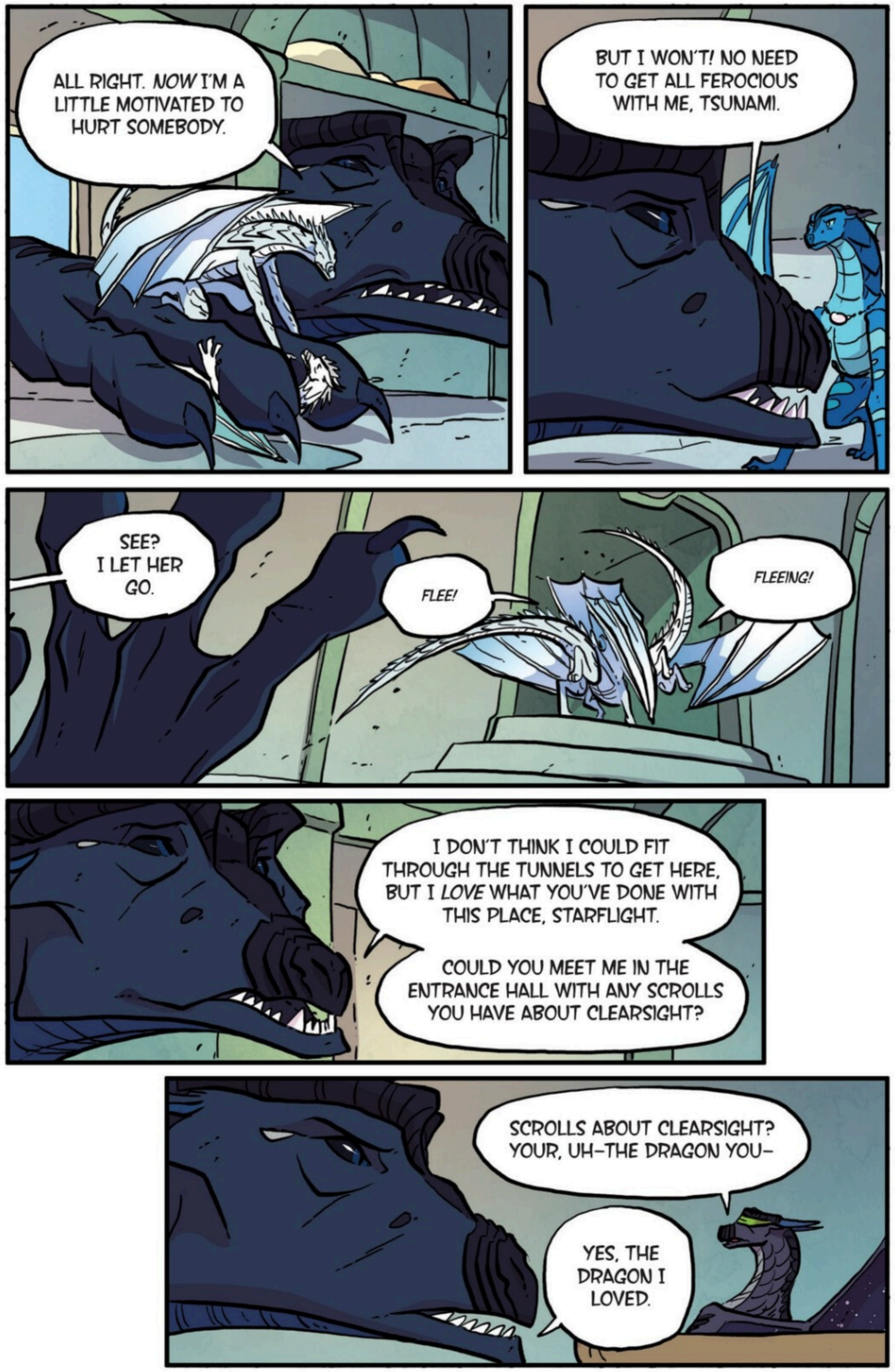

MORE POWERS AND PROPHECIES? *SERIOUSLY?* I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE WITH THAT!
I *HATE* PROPHECIES. MOST USELESS WAY TO COMMUNICATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.
IS DARKSTALKER AS TERRIFYING AS HE SOUNDS? THAT NIGHTWING LOOKED LIKE HE'D BEEN BITTEN BY A GHOST SHARK.
HE SCARED *ME*.
LET'S SWING BY THE LIBRARY AND ASK FOR A LECTURE. IT'LL MAKE STARFLIGHT'S DAY.
GOOD. THE DRAGONETS OF DESTINY CAN HANDLE DARKSTALKER. IT FEELS A LOT BETTER BEING IN TSUNAMI'S SHADOW.
HEY, STARFLIGHT. DON'T EXPLODE WITH JOY OR ANYTHING, BUT I HAVE A HISTORICAL QUESTION FOR YOU.

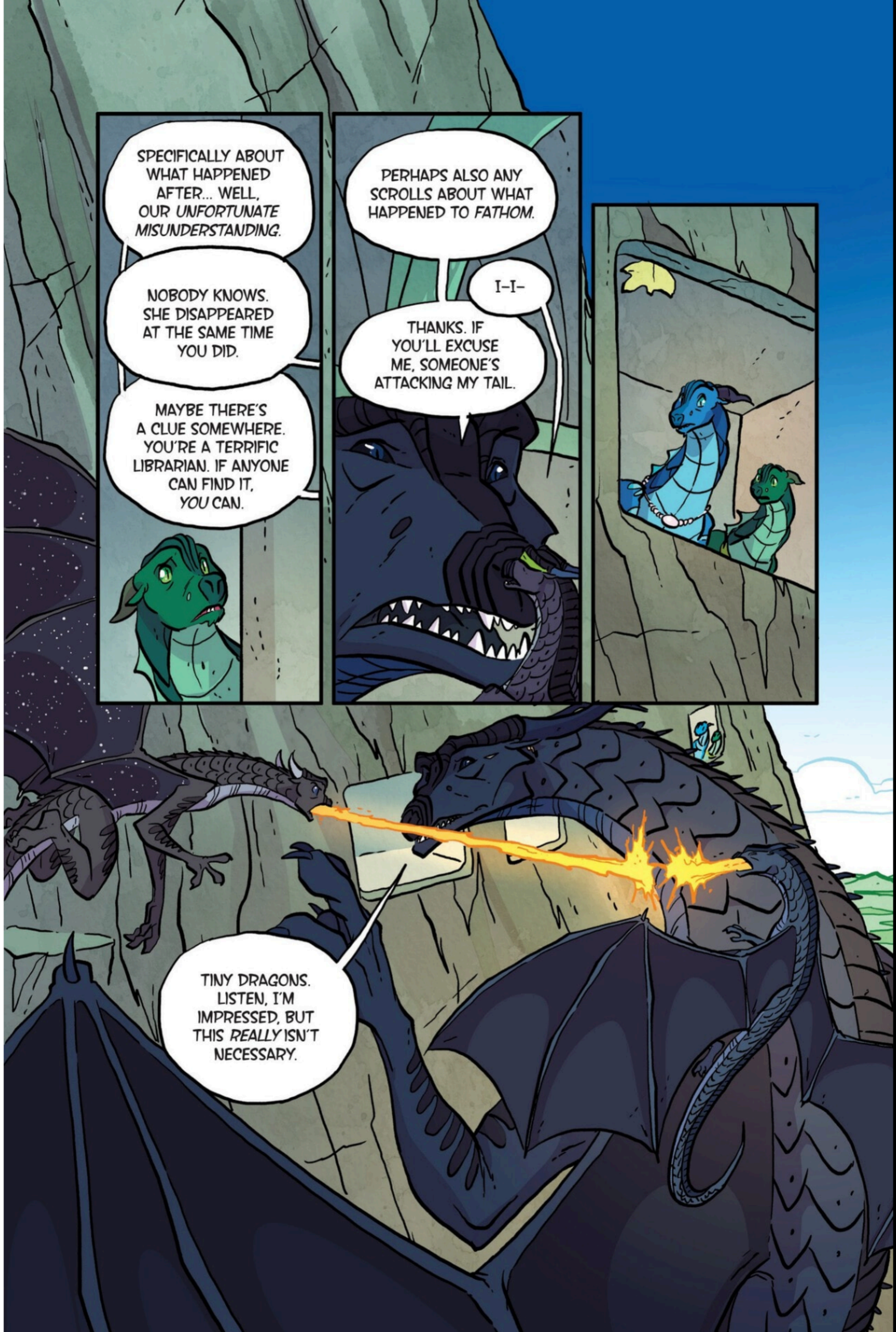

REALLY? WHICH ERA?
I HAVE NO IDEA. IS THERE AN ERA OF SINISTER BAD GUYS?
HEH.
The Era of SINISTER BAD GUYS
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT A DRAGON NAMED DARKSTALKER?
CR-CRASH!
HE WAS A POWERFUL ANIMUS NIGHTWING WHO DISAPPEARED OVER TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
STORIES SAY HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS GIRLFRIEND, CLEARSIGHT, AND BY THEIR FRIEND FATHOM, A SEAWING ANIMUS. NOBODY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

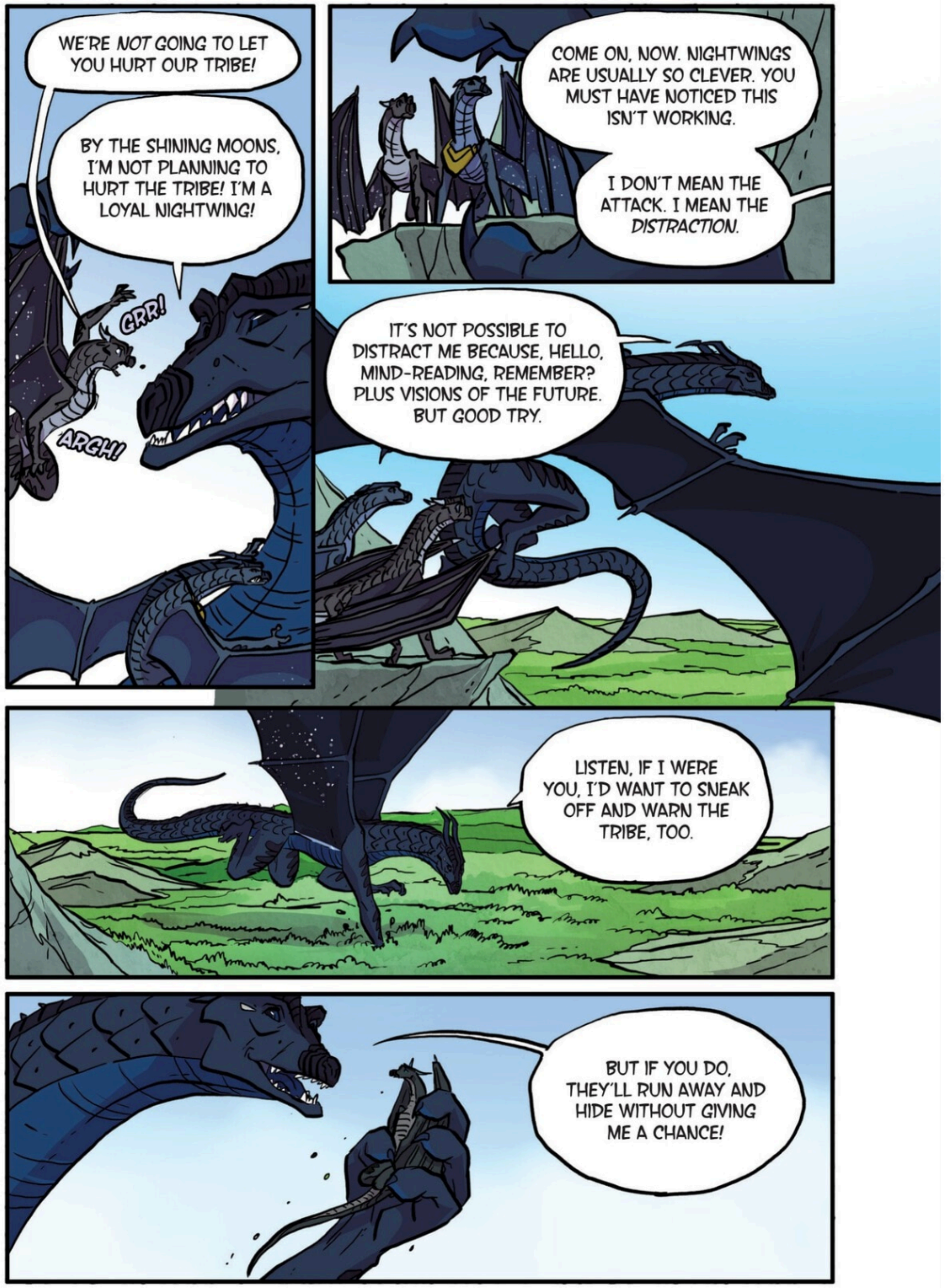

HE DIDN'T *REALLY* DISAPPEAR. HE SPENT YEARS LURKING AROUND, KILLING ICEWINGS.
AND HE KILLED HIS OWN FATHER. WHO WAS AN *ICEWING PRINCE*, BY THE WAY.
THAT STORY HAS BEEN *HIGHLY* OVERSIMPLIFIED.
DON'T THE SCROLLS MENTION THAT MY FATHER TOTALLY DESERVED IT?
HOW DID DARKSTALKER GET HERE SO **FAST?** IS HE ALREADY DONE HUNTING? WHERE ARE MY FRIENDS?
SHRRRRREEEEE!

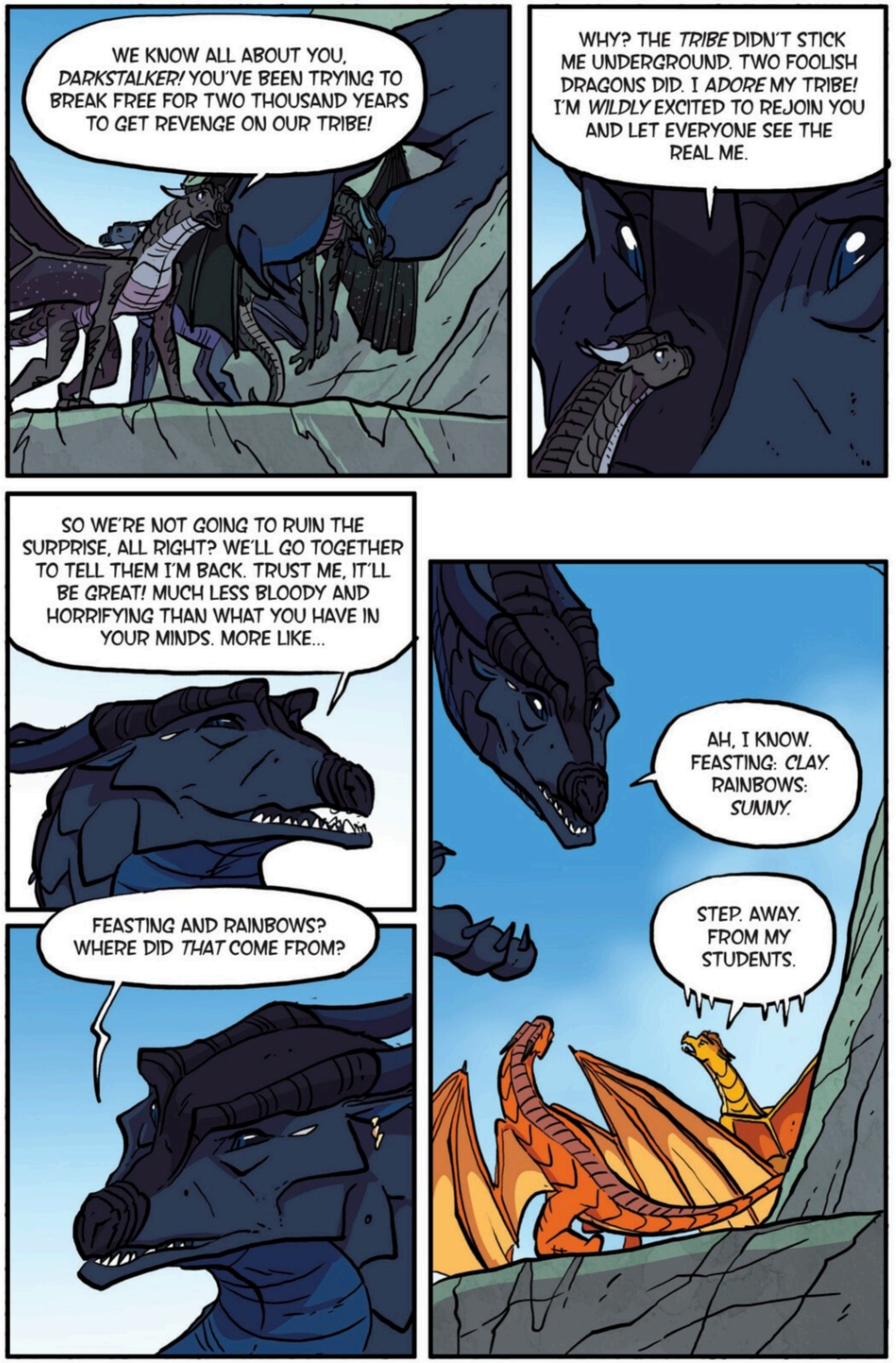

FATESPEAKER, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IT'S A REALLY, REALLY, *REALLY* BIG NIGHTWING!
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY VISIONS ABOUT THIS! THIS SEEMS SERIOUSLY VISION-WORTHY! *POWERS, HELP ME OUT!*
OH *NO!* I SEE... *DARKNESS* AHEAD!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE YOUR EYES CLOSED, YOU NINNY.
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU ALREADY KNOW. *AND* YOU KNEW I WAS COMING! *HOW?* I CAN'T EVEN FIND THE ANSWER IN YOUR MIND!
WHAT A *FASCINATING* MYSTERY.
PLEASE DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD.

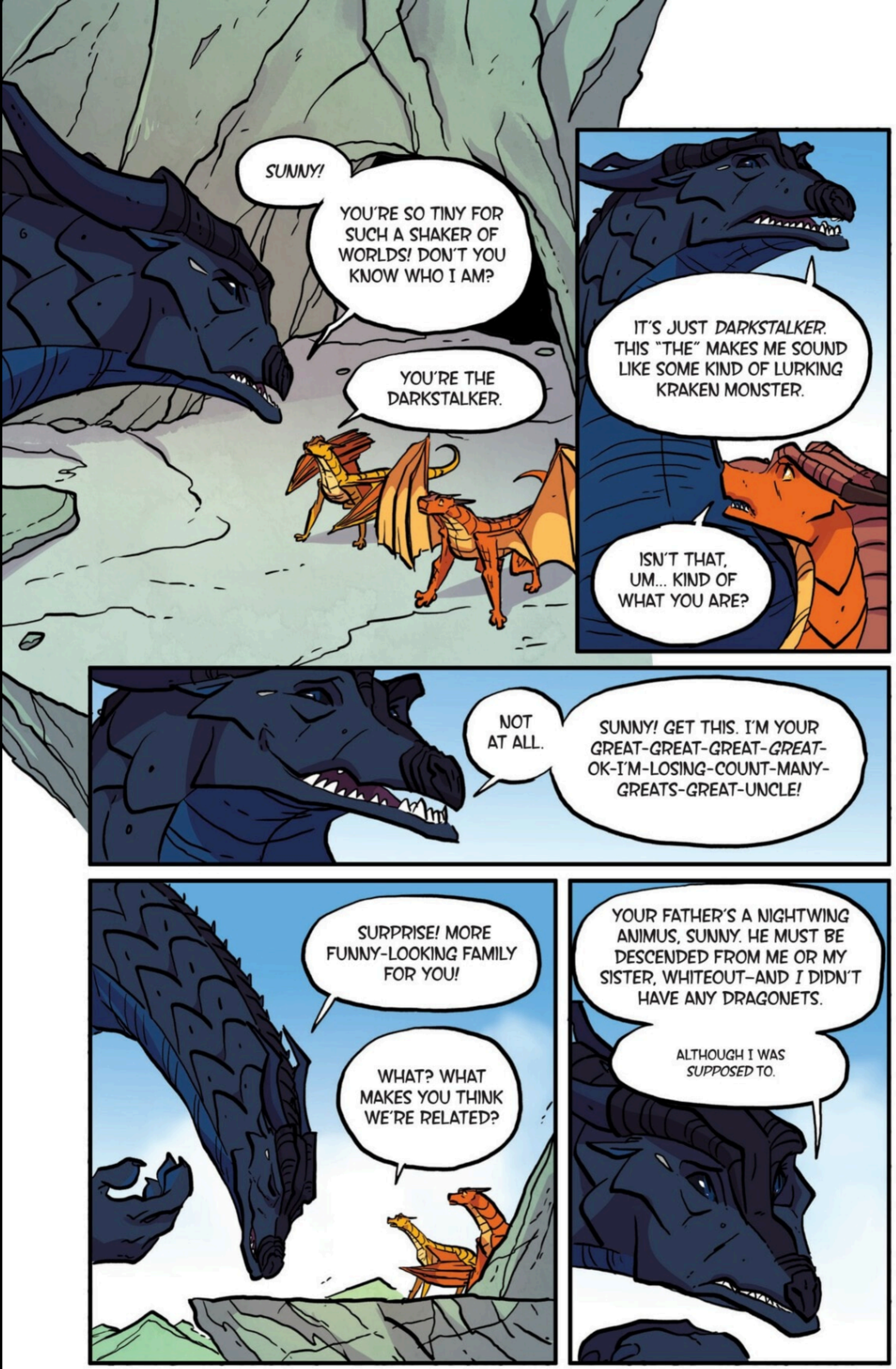

YOU'D BETTER NOT HURT ANY OF MY STUDENTS.
WHY WOULD I DO THAT, TSUNAMI? DRAGONS TODAY, *SO* HOSTILE AND MISTRUSTFUL.
NOW, IN *MY* TIME— NO, WAIT, WE WERE EXACTLY THE SAME.
THAT'S ONE OF THE PROBLEMS I WAS GOING TO FIX.
DARKSTALKER! DIE, YOU MONSTER!

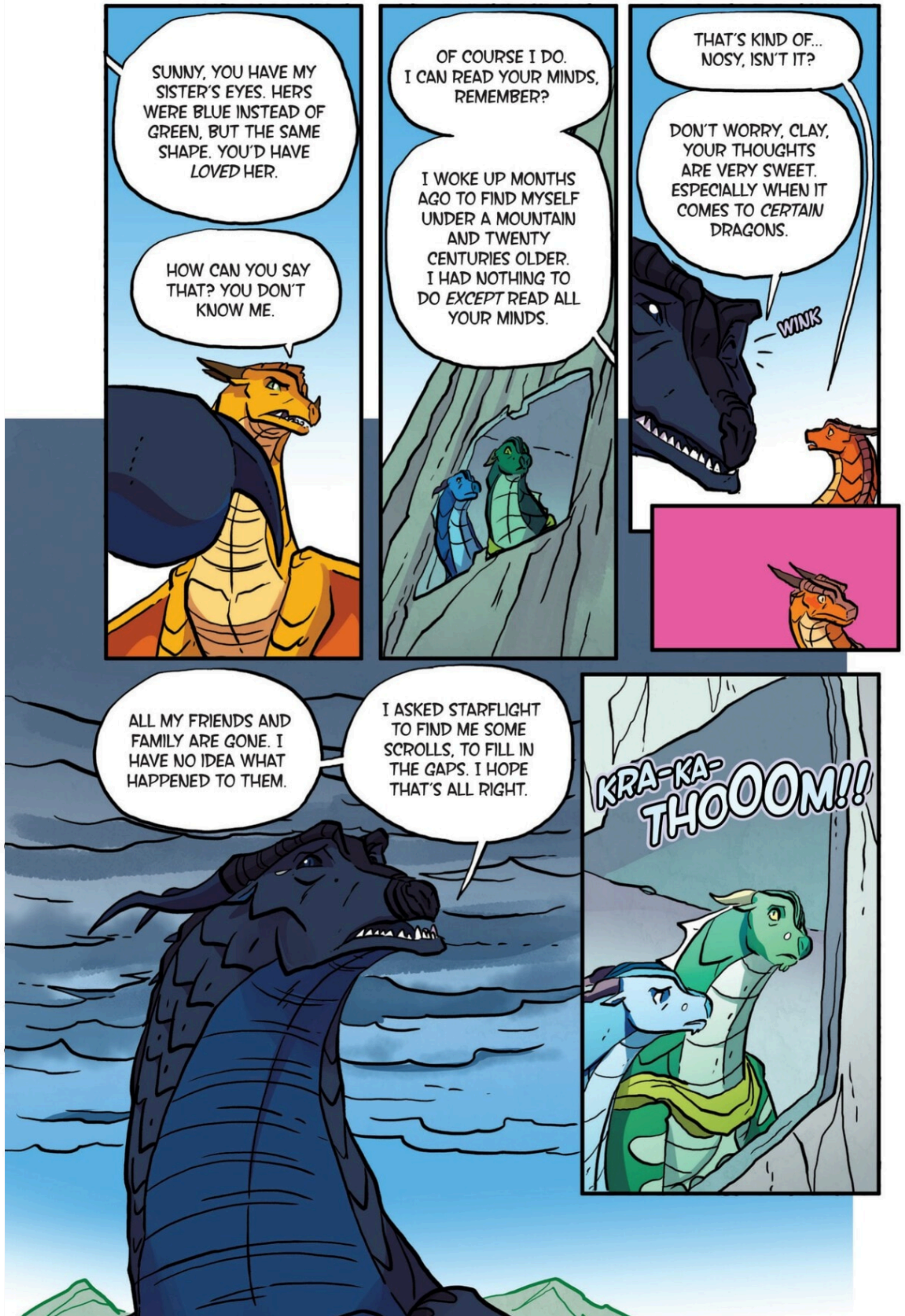

ALL RIGHT. *NOW* I'M A LITTLE MOTIVATED TO HURT SOMEBODY.
BUT I WON'T! NO NEED TO GET ALL FEROCIOUS WITH ME, TSUNAMI.
SEE? I LET HER GO.
FLEE!
FLEEING!
I DON'T THINK I COULD FIT THROUGH THE TUNNELS TO GET HERE, BUT I *LOVE* WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THIS PLACE, STARFLIGHT.
COULD YOU MEET ME IN THE ENTRANCE HALL WITH ANY SCROLLS YOU HAVE ABOUT CLEARSIGHT?
SCROLLS ABOUT CLEARSIGHT? YOUR, UH—THE DRAGON YOU—
YES, THE DRAGON I LOVED.

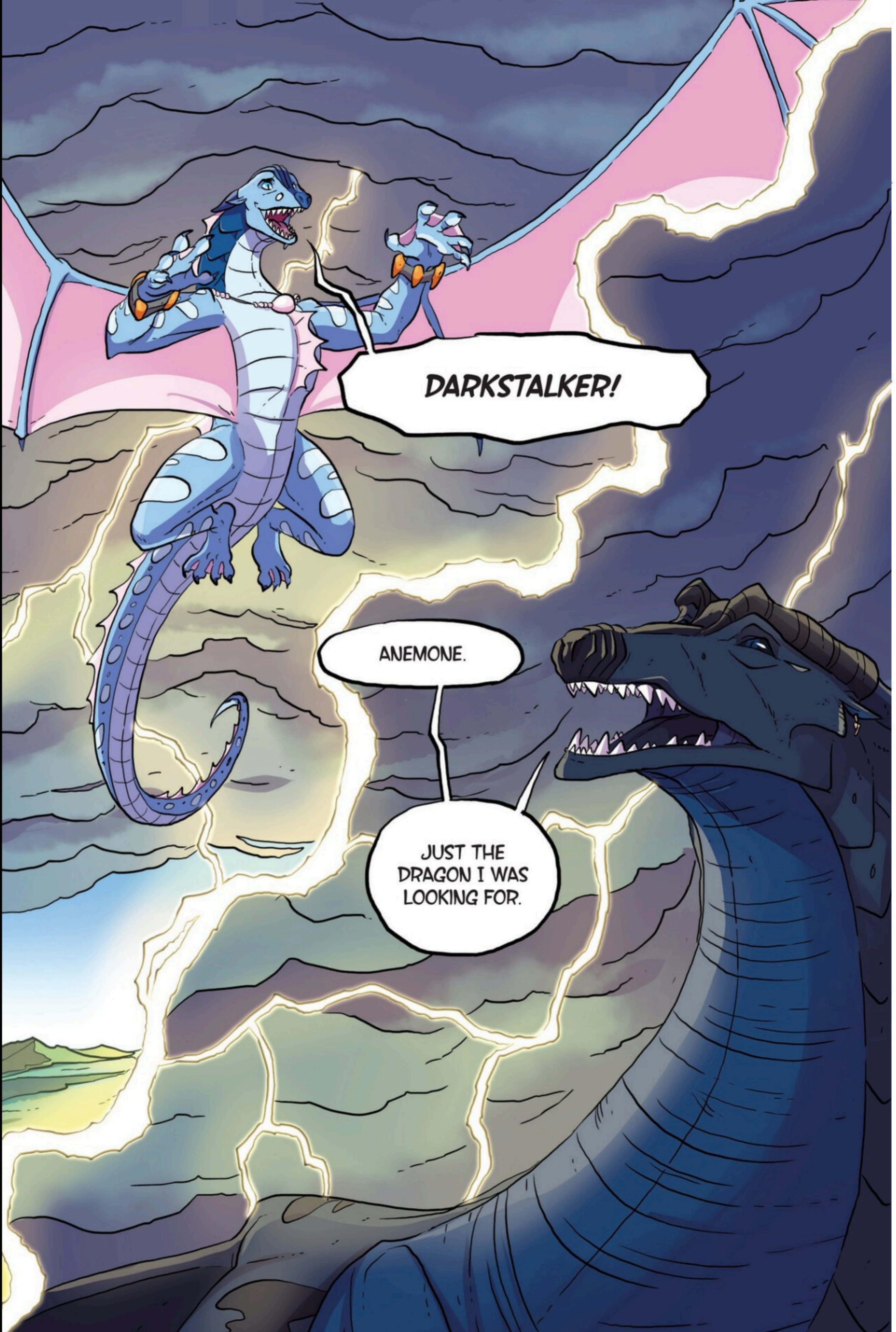

SPECIFICALLY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER... WELL, OUR *UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING.*
NOBODY KNOWS. SHE DISAPPEARED AT THE SAME TIME YOU DID.
MAYBE THERE'S A CLUE SOMEWHERE. YOU'RE A TERRIFIC LIBRARIAN. IF ANYONE CAN FIND IT, *YOU* CAN.
PERHAPS ALSO ANY SCROLLS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO *FATHOM.*
I—I—
THANKS. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, SOMEONE'S ATTACKING MY TAIL.
TINY DRAGONS. LISTEN, I'M IMPRESSED, BUT THIS *REALLY* ISN'T NECESSARY.

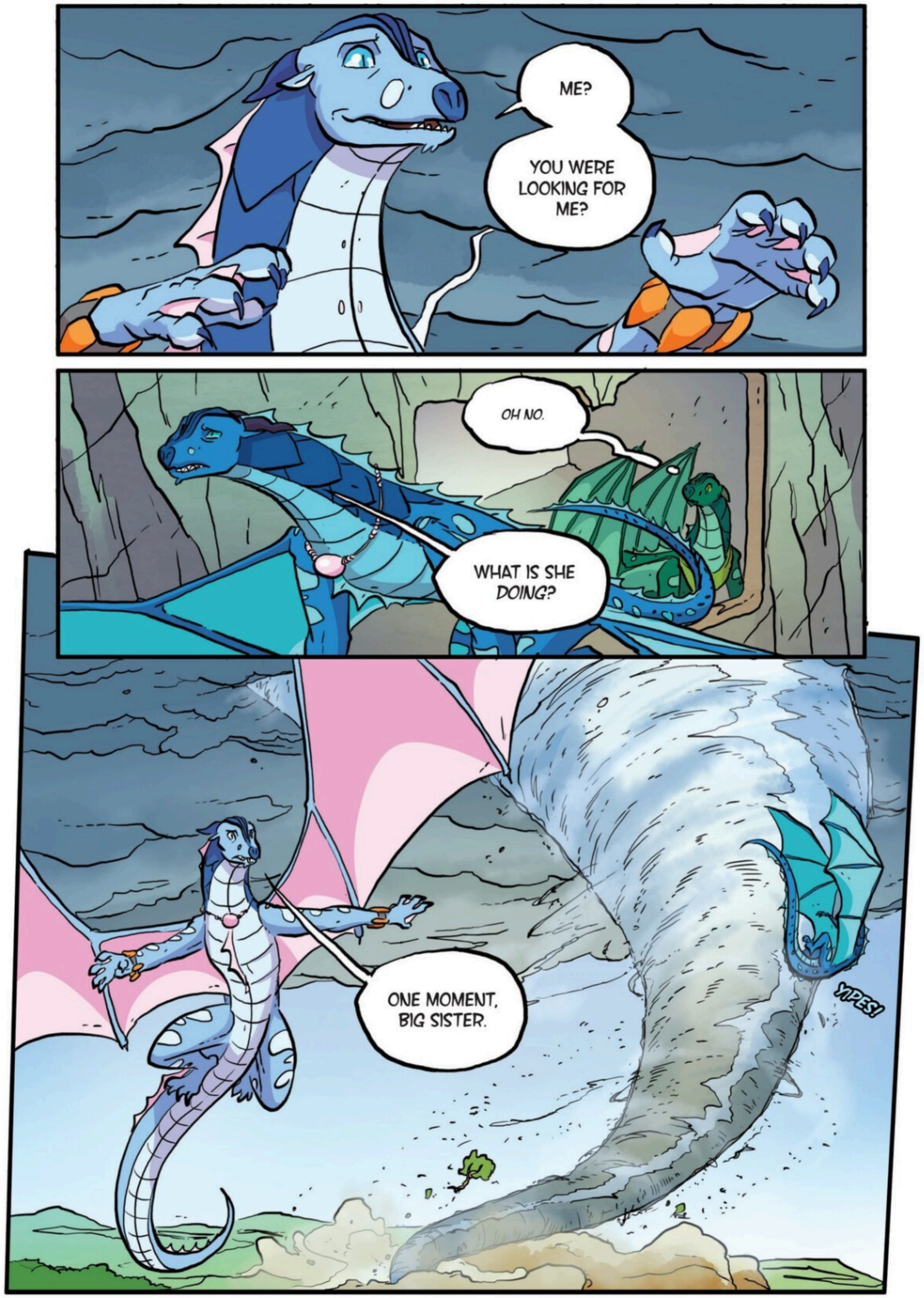

WE'RE *NOT* GOING TO LET YOU HURT OUR TRIBE!
BY THE SHINING MOONS, I'M NOT PLANNING TO HURT THE TRIBE! I'M A LOYAL NIGHTWING!
GRR!
ARGH!
COME ON, NOW. NIGHTWINGS ARE USUALLY SO CLEVER. YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED THIS ISN'T WORKING.
I DON'T MEAN THE ATTACK. I MEAN THE *DISTRACTION*.
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO DISTRACT ME BECAUSE, HELLO, MIND-READING, REMEMBER? PLUS VISIONS OF THE FUTURE. BUT GOOD TRY.
LISTEN, IF I WERE YOU, I'D WANT TO SNEAK OFF AND WARN THE TRIBE, TOO.
BUT IF YOU DO, THEY'LL RUN AWAY AND HIDE WITHOUT GIVING ME A CHANCE!

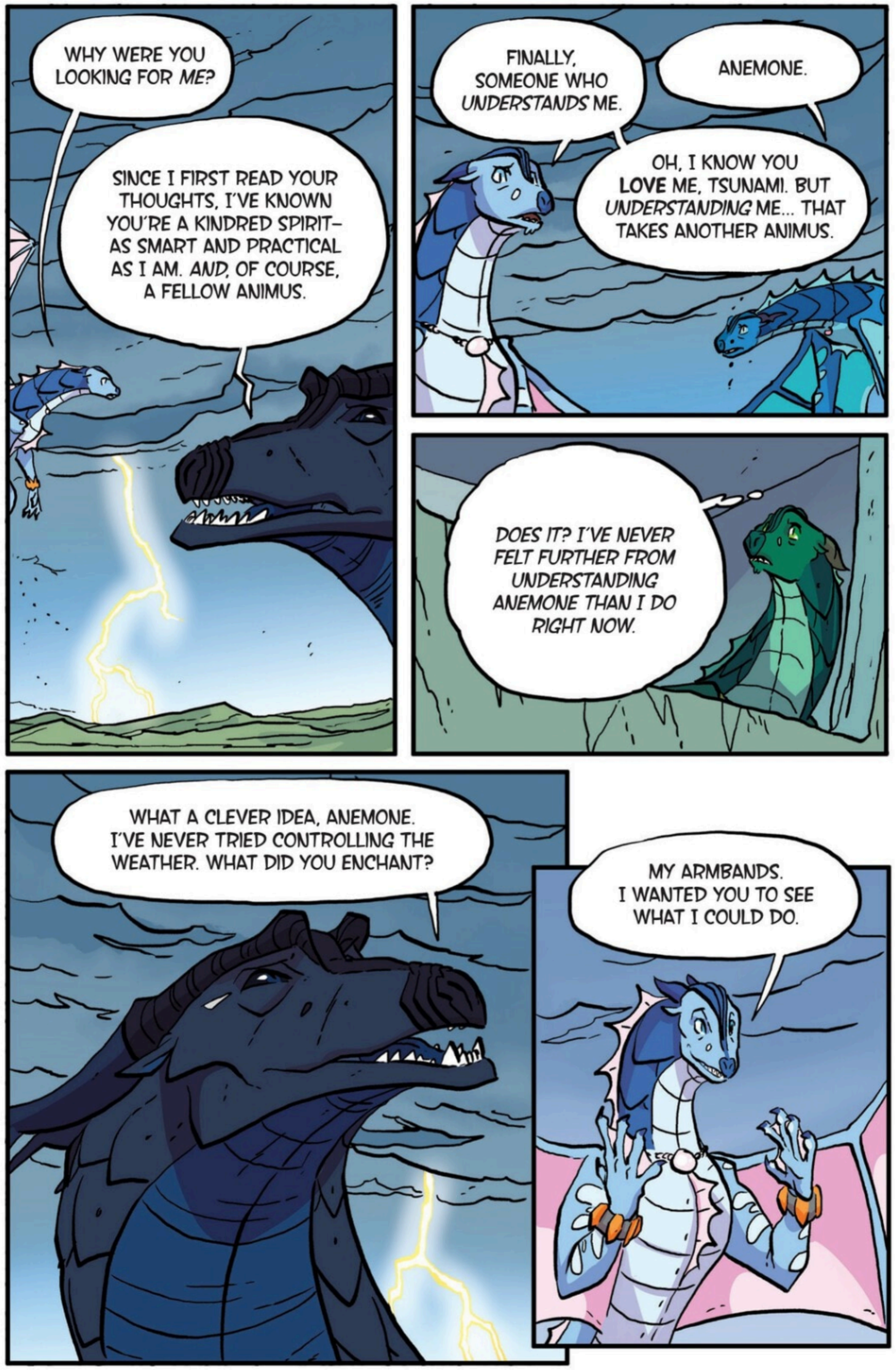

WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, *DARKSTALKER!* YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO BREAK FREE FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS TO GET REVENGE ON OUR TRIBE!
WHY? THE *TRIBE* DIDN'T STICK ME UNDERGROUND. TWO FOOLISH DRAGONS DID. I *ADORE* MY TRIBE! I'M *WILDLY* EXCITED TO REJOIN YOU AND LET EVERYONE SEE THE REAL ME.
SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO RUIN THE SURPRISE, ALL RIGHT? WE'LL GO TOGETHER TO TELL THEM I'M BACK. TRUST ME, IT'LL BE GREAT! MUCH LESS BLOODY AND HORRIFYING THAN WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR MINDS. MORE LIKE...
FEASTING AND RAINBOWS? WHERE DID *THAT* COME FROM?
AH, I KNOW. FEASTING: *CLAY*. RAINBOWS: *SUNNY*.
STEP. AWAY. FROM MY STUDENTS.

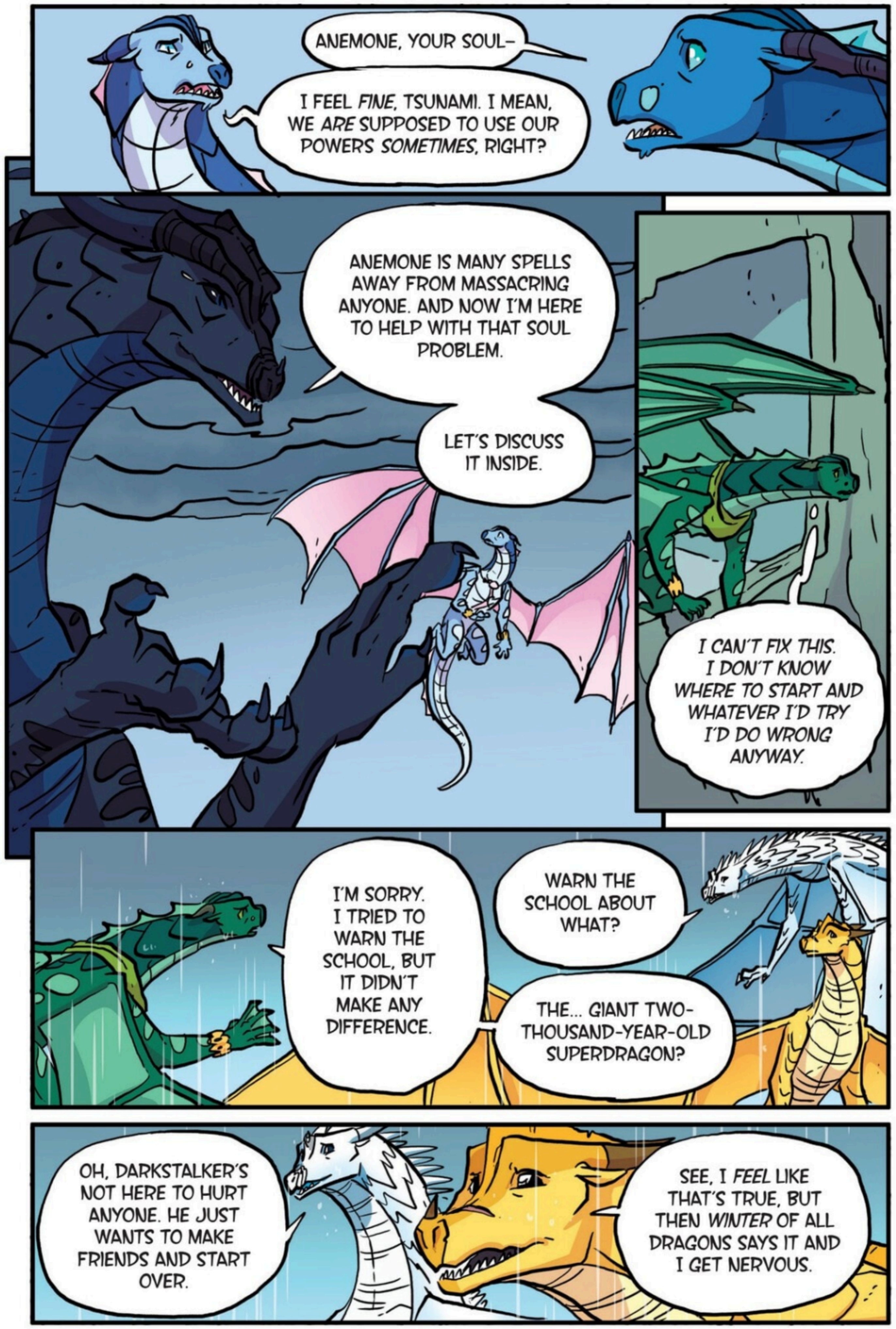

SUNNY!
YOU'RE SO TINY FOR SUCH A SHAKER OF WORLDS! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
YOU'RE THE DARKSTALKER.
IT'S JUST *DARKSTALKER*. THIS "THE" MAKES ME SOUND LIKE SOME KIND OF LURKING KRAKEN MONSTER.
ISN'T THAT, UM... KIND OF WHAT YOU ARE?
NOT AT ALL.
SUNNY! GET THIS. I'M YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-*GREAT*-OK-I'M-LOSING-COUNT-MANY-GREATS-GREAT-UNCLE!
SURPRISE! MORE FUNNY-LOOKING FAMILY FOR YOU!
WHAT? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'RE RELATED?
YOUR FATHER'S A NIGHTWING ANIMUS, SUNNY. HE MUST BE DESCENDED FROM ME OR MY SISTER, WHITEOUT—AND *I* DIDN'T HAVE ANY DRAGONETS.
ALTHOUGH I WAS *SUPPOSED* TO.

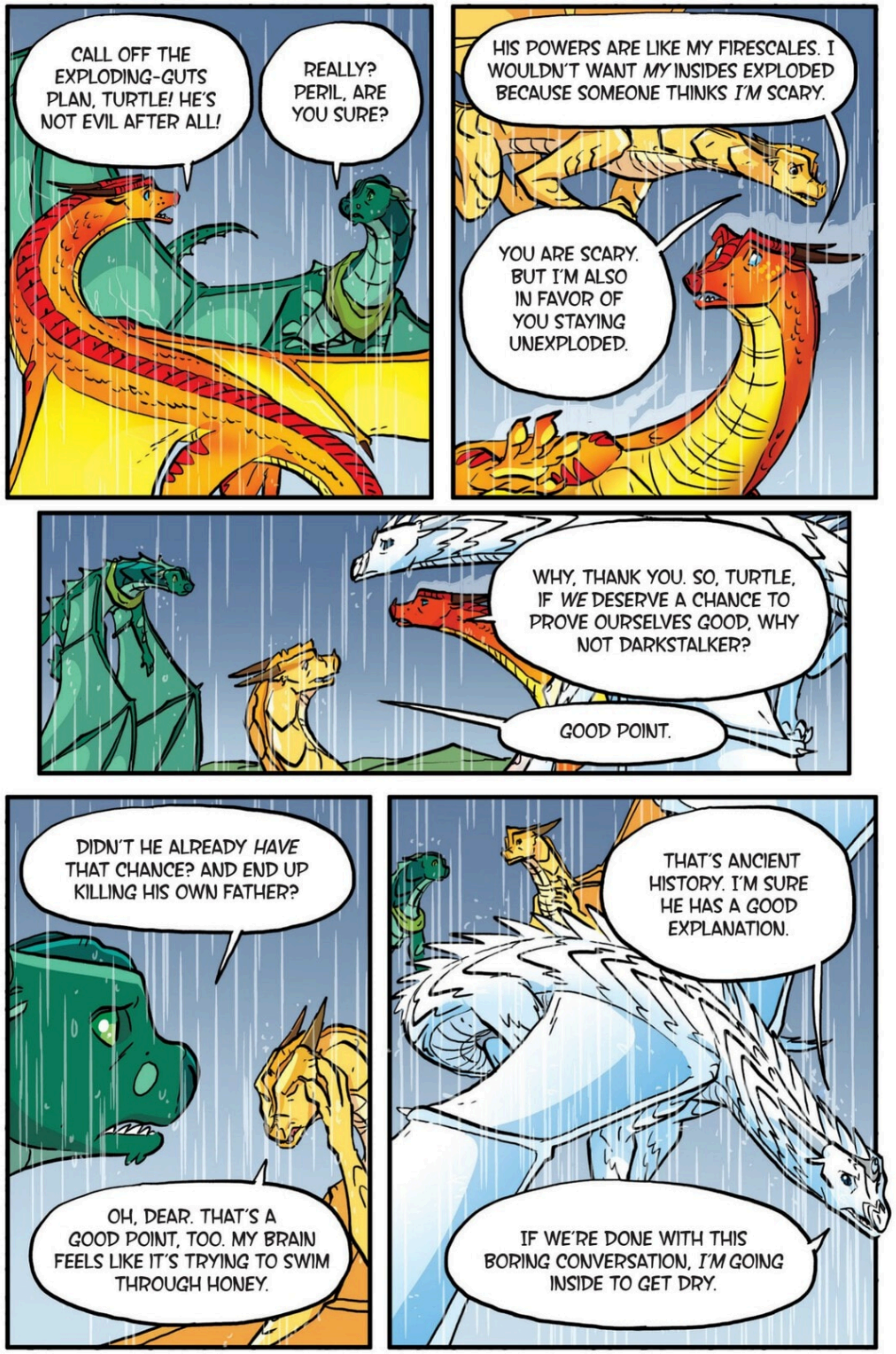

SUNNY, YOU HAVE MY SISTER'S EYES. HERS WERE BLUE INSTEAD OF GREEN, BUT THE SAME SHAPE. YOU'D HAVE *LOVED* HER.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
OF COURSE I DO. I CAN READ YOUR MINDS, REMEMBER?
I WOKE UP MONTHS AGO TO FIND MYSELF UNDER A MOUNTAIN AND TWENTY CENTURIES OLDER. I HAD NOTHING TO DO *EXCEPT* READ ALL YOUR MINDS.
THAT'S KIND OF... NOSY, ISN'T IT?
DON'T WORRY, CLAY, YOUR THOUGHTS ARE VERY SWEET. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO *CERTAIN* DRAGONS.
WINK
ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE GONE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.
I ASKED STARFLIGHT TO FIND ME SOME SCROLLS, TO FILL IN THE GAPS. I HOPE THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
KRA-KA-THOOOM!!

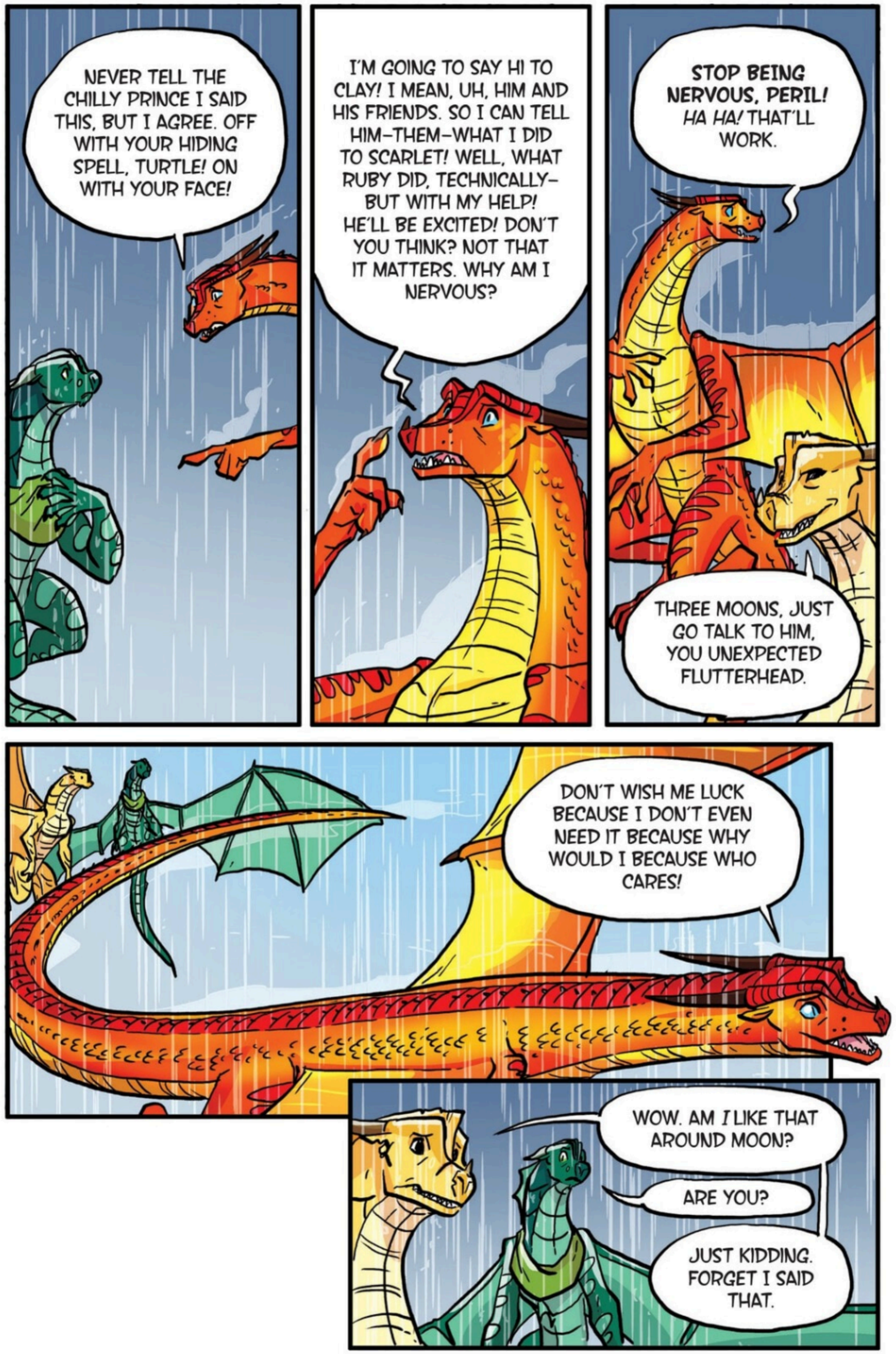

DARKSTALKER!
ANEMONE.
JUST THE DRAGON I WAS LOOKING FOR.

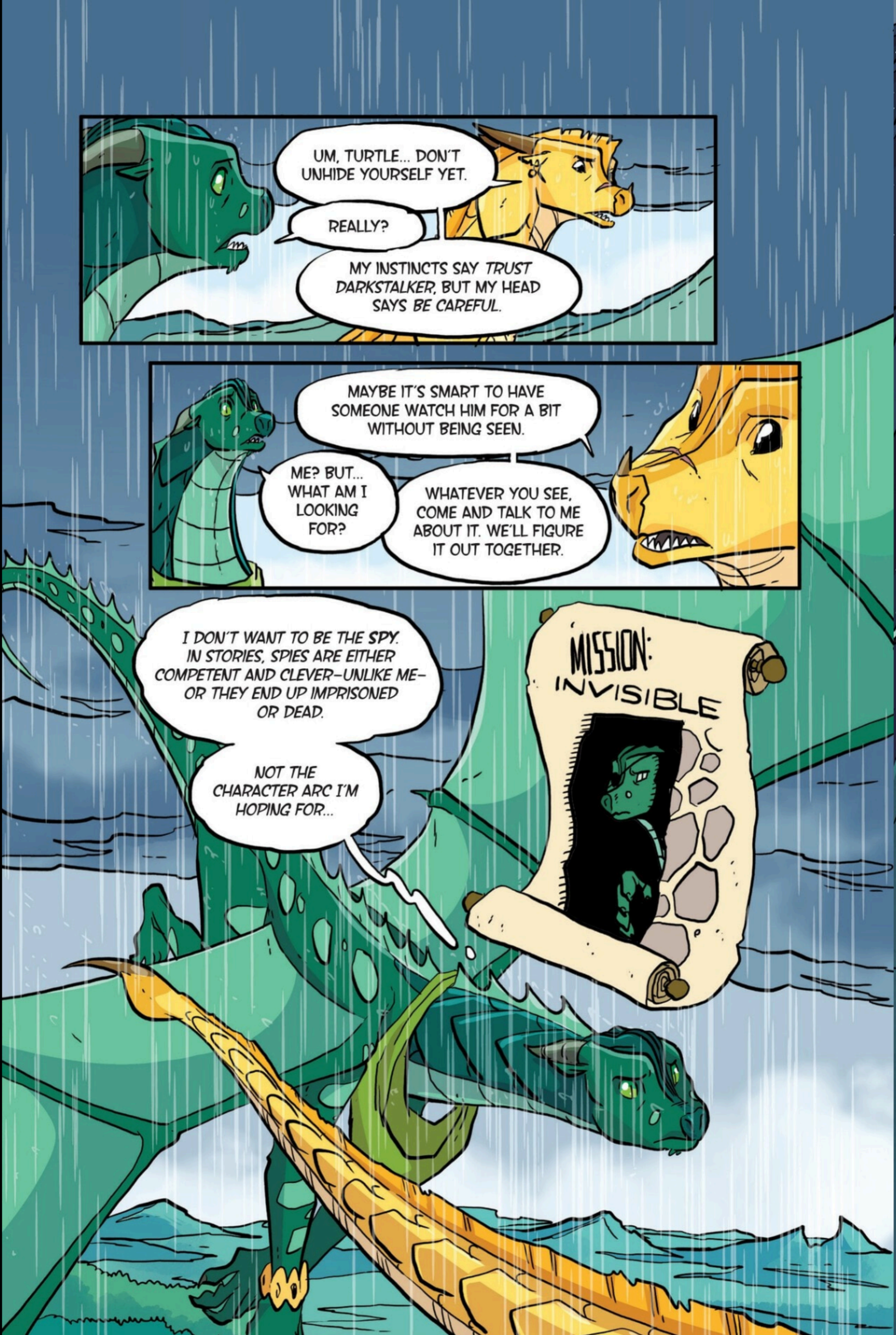

ME?
YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME?
OH NO.
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
ONE MOMENT, BIG SISTER.
YIPES!

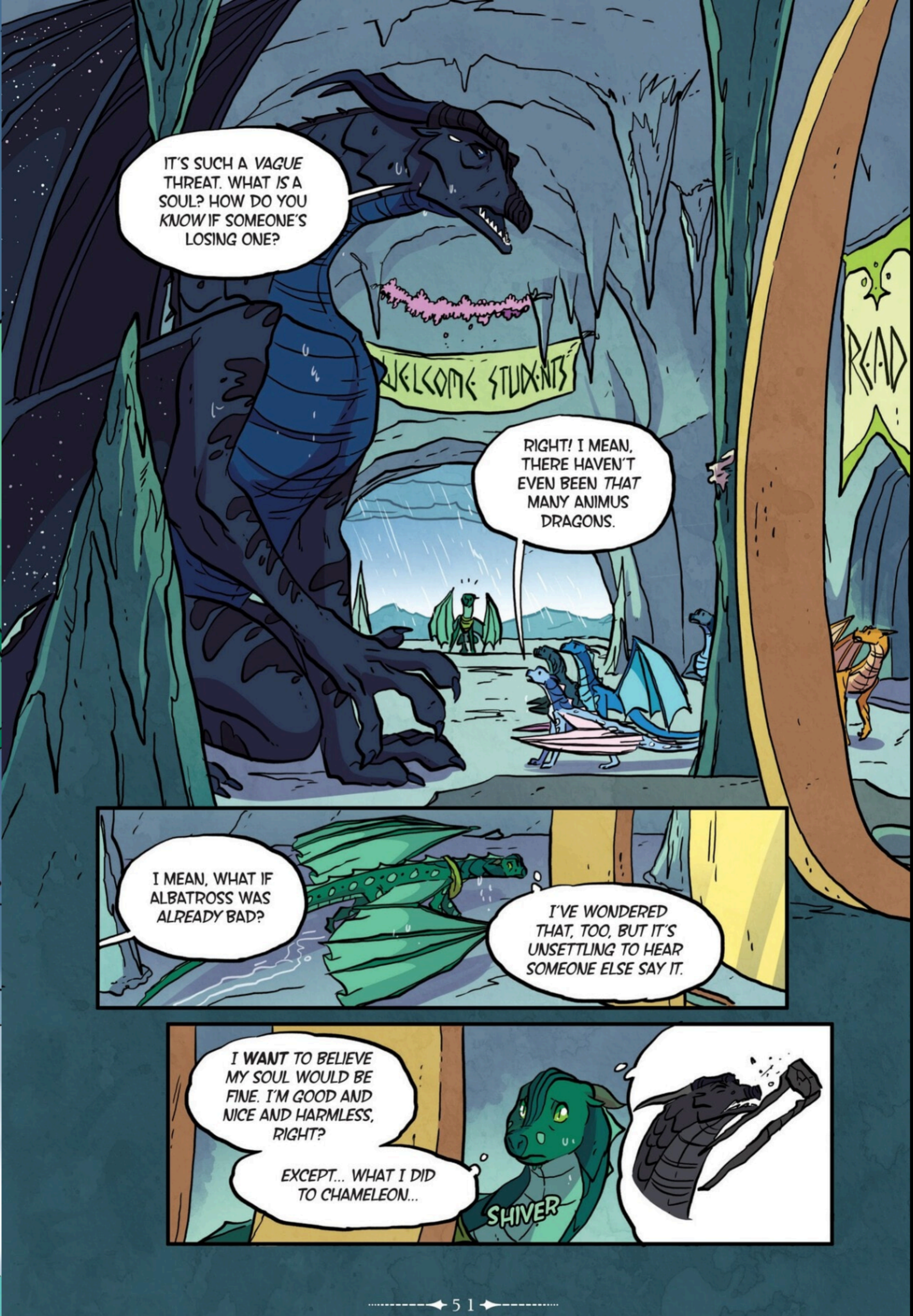

WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR *ME?*
SINCE I FIRST READ YOUR THOUGHTS, I'VE KNOWN YOU'RE A KINDRED SPIRIT– AS SMART AND PRACTICAL AS I AM. *AND,* OF COURSE, A FELLOW ANIMUS.
FINALLY, SOMEONE WHO *UNDERSTANDS* ME.
ANEMONE.
OH, I KNOW YOU **LOVE** ME, TSUNAMI. BUT *UNDERSTANDING* ME... THAT TAKES ANOTHER ANIMUS.
DOES IT? I'VE NEVER FELT FURTHER FROM UNDERSTANDING ANEMONE THAN I DO RIGHT NOW.
WHAT A CLEVER IDEA, ANEMONE. I'VE NEVER TRIED CONTROLLING THE WEATHER. WHAT DID YOU ENCHANT?
MY ARMBANDS. I WANTED YOU TO SEE WHAT I COULD DO.

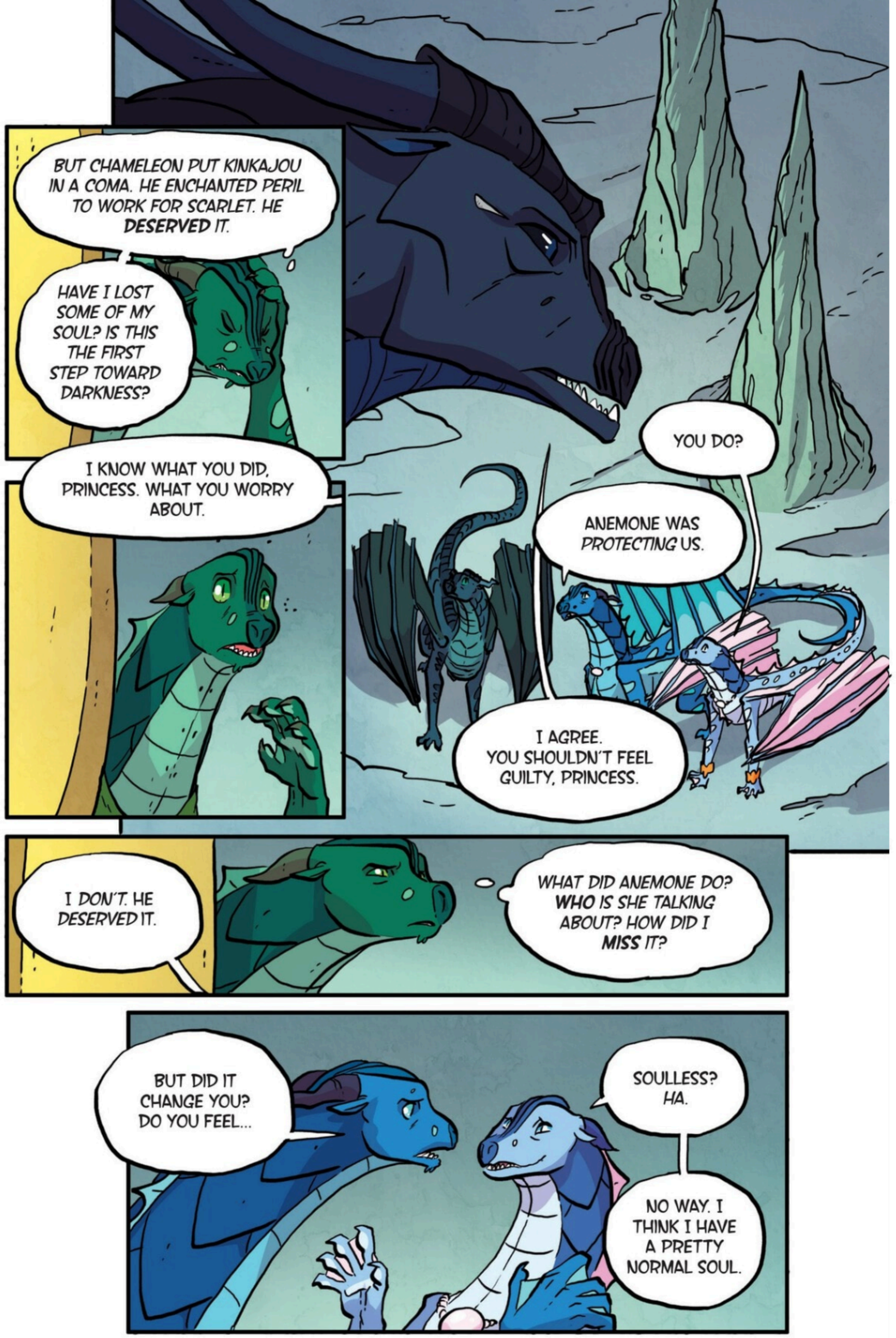

ANEMONE, YOUR SOUL–
I FEEL *FINE,* TSUNAMI. I MEAN, WE *ARE* SUPPOSED TO USE OUR POWERS *SOMETIMES,* RIGHT?
ANEMONE IS MANY SPELLS AWAY FROM MASSACRING ANYONE. AND NOW I'M HERE TO HELP WITH THAT SOUL PROBLEM.
LET'S DISCUSS IT INSIDE.
I CAN'T FIX THIS. I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START AND WHATEVER I'D TRY I'D DO WRONG ANYWAY.
I'M SORRY. I TRIED TO WARN THE SCHOOL, BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
WARN THE SCHOOL ABOUT WHAT?
THE... GIANT TWO-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD SUPERDRAGON?
OH, DARKSTALKER'S NOT HERE TO HURT ANYONE. HE JUST WANTS TO MAKE FRIENDS AND START OVER.
SEE, I *FEEL* LIKE THAT'S TRUE, BUT THEN *WINTER* OF ALL DRAGONS SAYS IT AND I GET NERVOUS.

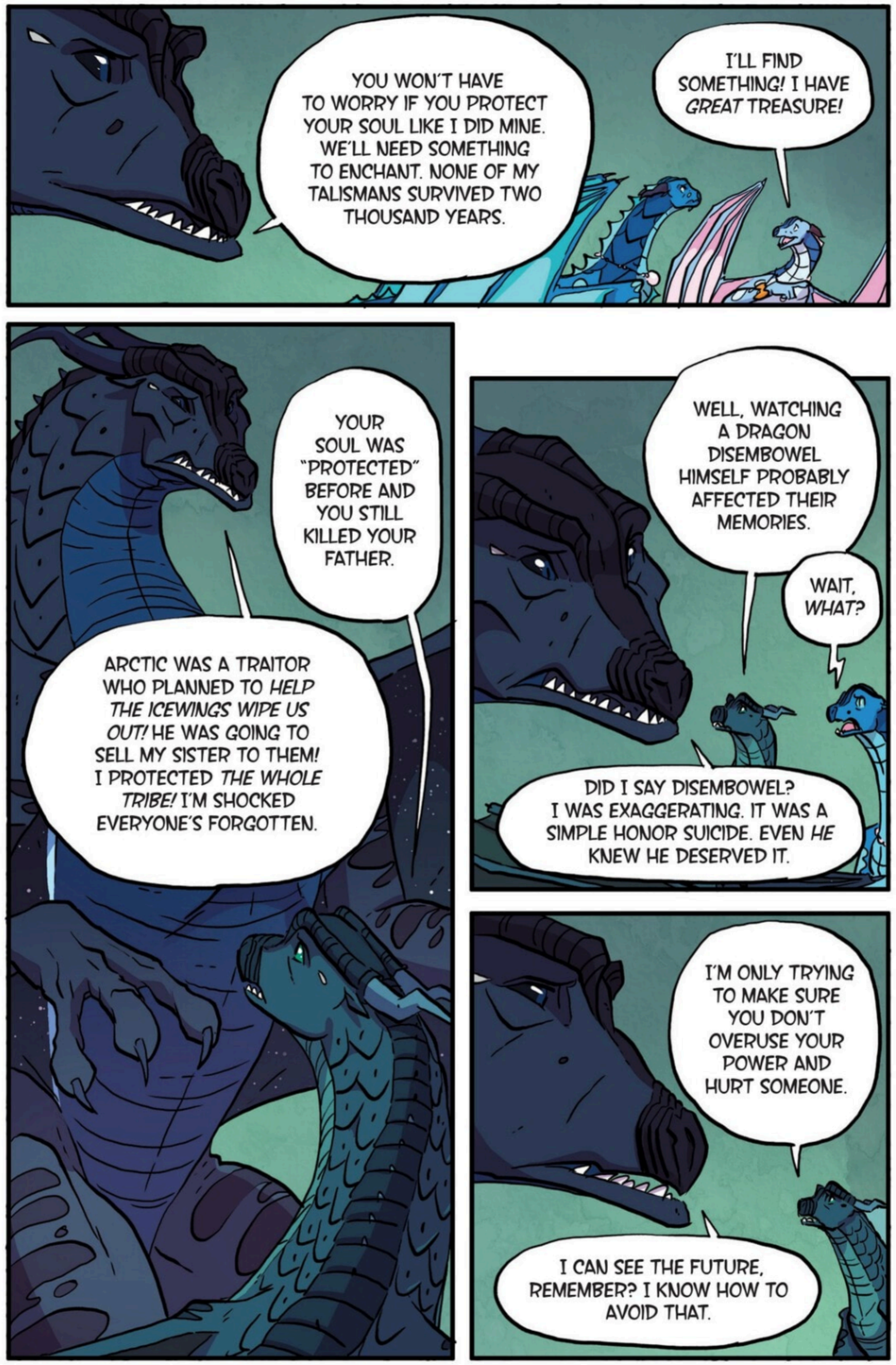

CALL OFF THE EXPLODING-GUTS PLAN, TURTLE! HE'S NOT EVIL AFTER ALL!
REALLY? PERIL, ARE YOU SURE?
HIS POWERS ARE LIKE MY FIRESCALES. I WOULDN'T WANT *MY* INSIDES EXPLODED BECAUSE SOMEONE THINKS *I'M* SCARY.
YOU ARE SCARY. BUT I'M ALSO IN FAVOR OF YOU STAYING UNEXPLODED.
WHY, THANK YOU. SO, TURTLE, IF *WE* DESERVE A CHANCE TO PROVE OURSELVES GOOD, WHY NOT DARKSTALKER?
GOOD POINT.
DIDN'T HE ALREADY *HAVE* THAT CHANCE? AND END UP KILLING HIS OWN FATHER?
OH, DEAR. THAT'S A GOOD POINT, TOO. MY BRAIN FEELS LIKE IT'S TRYING TO SWIM THROUGH HONEY.
THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY. I'M SURE HE HAS A GOOD EXPLANATION.
IF WE'RE DONE WITH THIS BORING CONVERSATION, *I'M* GOING INSIDE TO GET DRY.

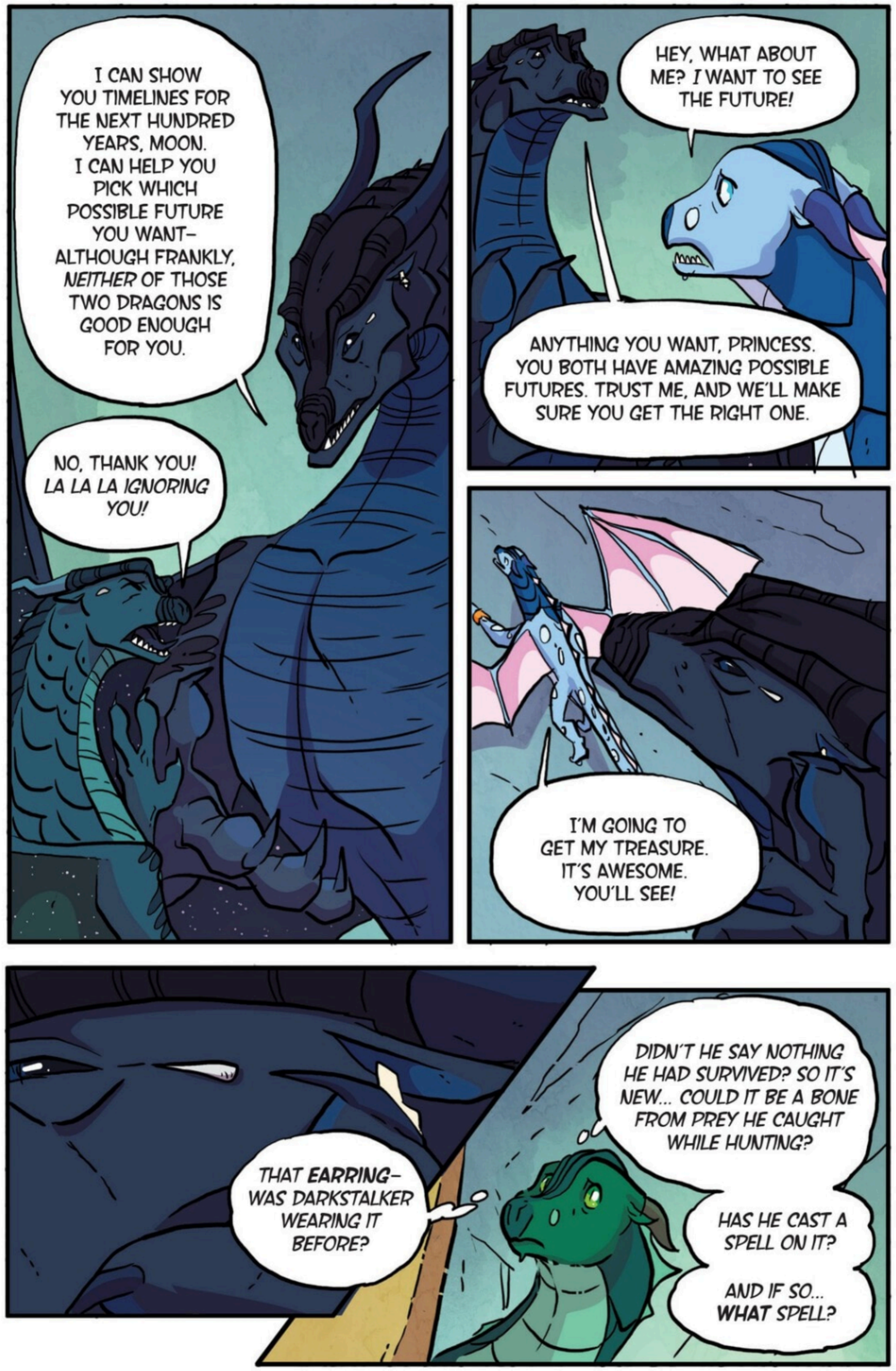

NEVER TELL THE CHILLY PRINCE I SAID THIS, BUT I AGREE. OFF WITH YOUR HIDING SPELL, TURTLE! ON WITH YOUR FACE!
I'M GOING TO SAY HI TO CLAY! I MEAN, UH, HIM AND HIS FRIENDS. SO I CAN TELL HIM—THEM—WHAT I DID TO SCARLET! WELL, WHAT RUBY DID, TECHNICALLY—BUT WITH MY HELP! HE'LL BE EXCITED! DON'T YOU THINK? NOT THAT IT MATTERS. WHY AM I NERVOUS?
STOP BEING NERVOUS, PERIL! *HA HA!* THAT'LL WORK.
THREE MOONS, JUST GO TALK TO HIM, YOU UNEXPECTED FLUTTERHEAD.
DON'T WISH ME LUCK BECAUSE I DON'T EVEN NEED IT BECAUSE WHY WOULD I BECAUSE WHO CARES!
WOW. AM *I* LIKE THAT AROUND MOON?
ARE YOU?
JUST KIDDING. FORGET I SAID THAT.

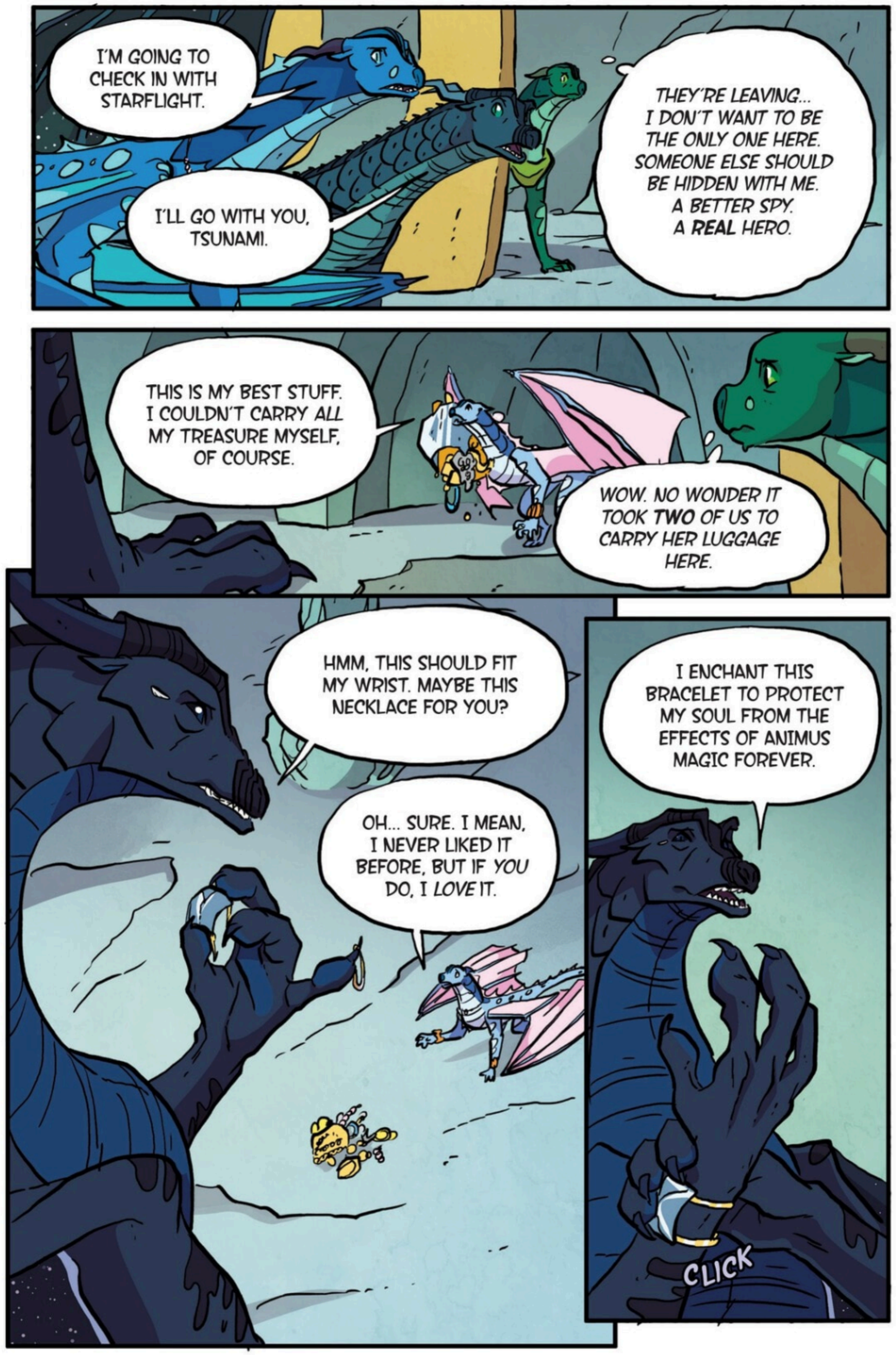

UM, TURTLE... DON'T UNHIDE YOURSELF YET.
REALLY?
MY INSTINCTS SAY *TRUST DARKSTALKER*, BUT MY HEAD SAYS *BE CAREFUL*.
MAYBE IT'S SMART TO HAVE SOMEONE WATCH HIM FOR A BIT WITHOUT BEING SEEN.
ME? BUT... WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
WHATEVER YOU SEE, COME AND TALK TO ME ABOUT IT. WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT TOGETHER.
*I DON'T WANT TO BE THE **SPY**. IN STORIES, SPIES ARE EITHER COMPETENT AND CLEVER—UNLIKE ME—OR THEY END UP IMPRISONED OR DEAD.*
NOT THE CHARACTER ARC I'M HOPING FOR...
MISSION:
INVISIBLE

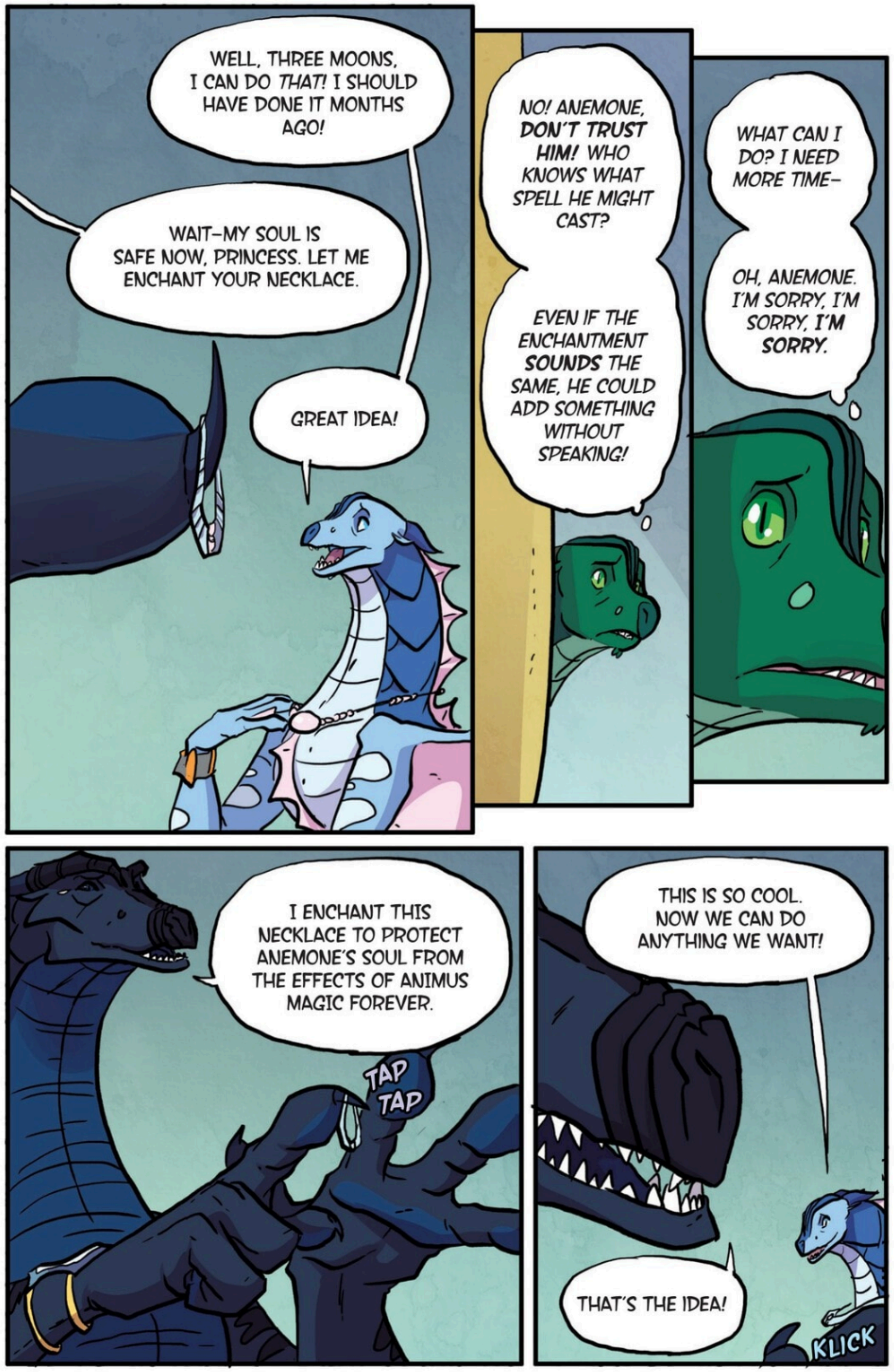

IT'S SUCH A *VAGUE* THREAT. WHAT *IS* A SOUL? HOW DO YOU *KNOW* IF SOMEONE'S LOSING ONE?
WELCOME STUDENTS
READ
RIGHT! I MEAN, THERE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN *THAT* MANY ANIMUS DRAGONS.
I MEAN, WHAT IF ALBATROSS WAS ALREADY BAD?
I'VE WONDERED THAT, TOO, BUT IT'S UNSETTLING TO HEAR SOMEONE ELSE SAY IT.
*I **WANT** TO BELIEVE MY SOUL WOULD BE FINE. I'M GOOD AND NICE AND HARMLESS, RIGHT?*
EXCEPT... WHAT I DID TO CHAMELEON...
SHIVER

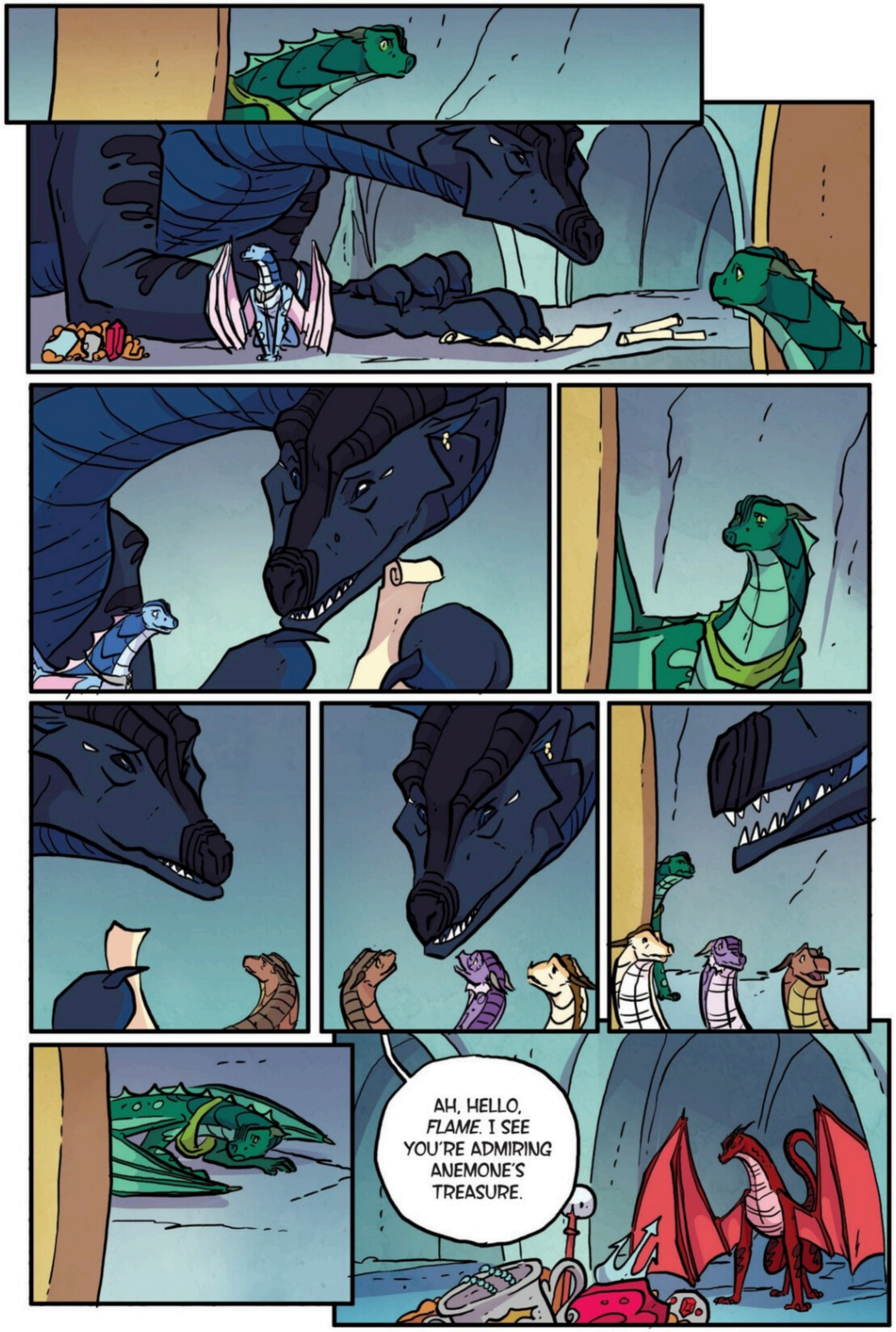

BUT CHAMELEON PUT KINKAJOU IN A COMA. HE ENCHANTED PERIL TO WORK FOR SCARLET. HE **DESERVED** IT.
HAVE I LOST SOME OF MY SOUL? IS THIS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD DARKNESS?
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID, PRINCESS. WHAT YOU WORRY ABOUT.
YOU DO?
ANEMONE WAS *PROTECTING* US.
I AGREE. YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL GUILTY, PRINCESS.
I DON'T. HE DESERVED IT.
WHAT DID ANEMONE DO? **WHO** IS SHE TALKING ABOUT? HOW DID I **MISS** IT?
BUT DID IT CHANGE YOU? DO YOU FEEL...
SOULLESS? HA.
NO WAY. I THINK I HAVE A PRETTY NORMAL SOUL.

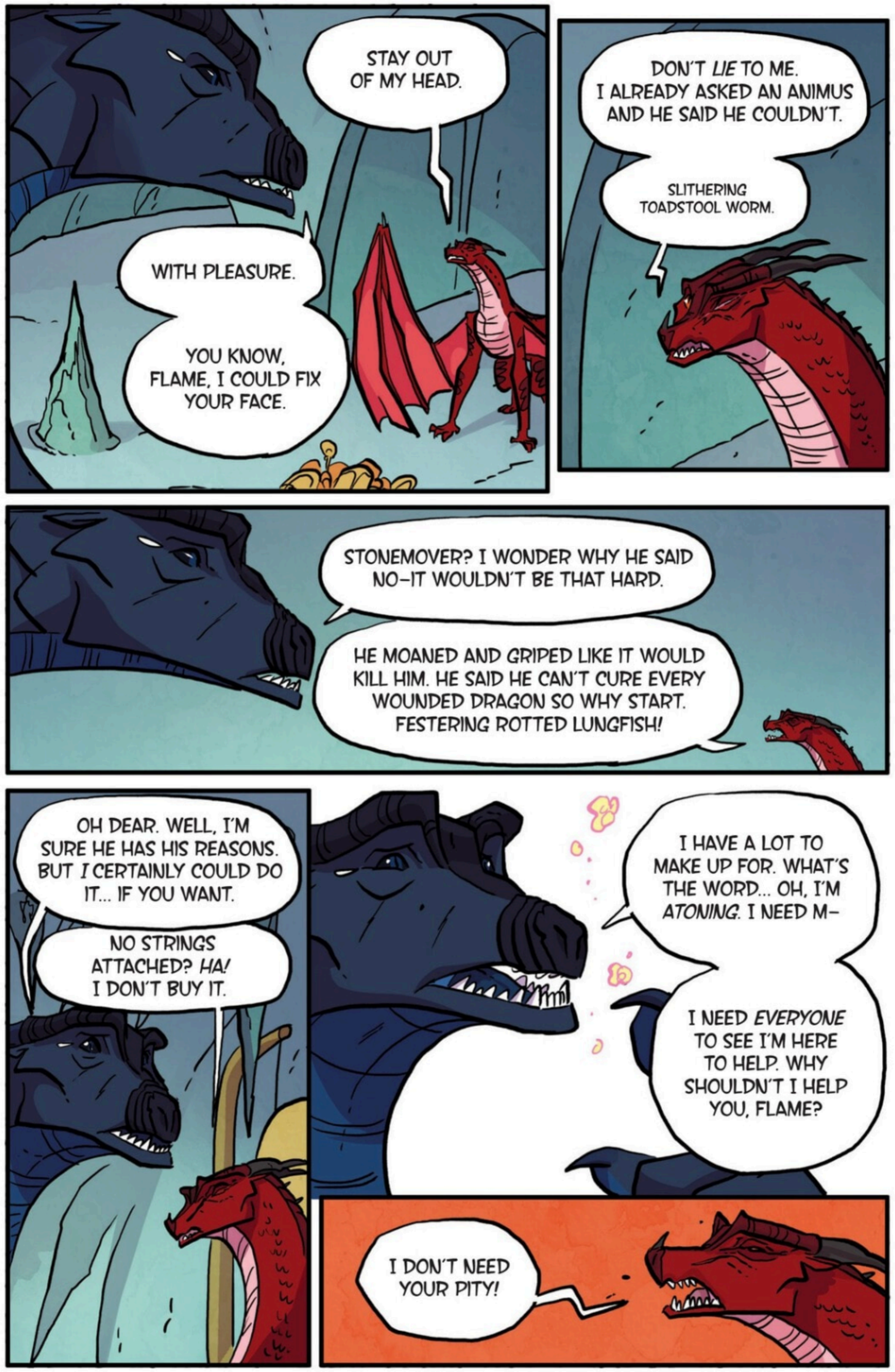

YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY IF YOU PROTECT YOUR SOUL LIKE I DID MINE. WE'LL NEED SOMETHING TO ENCHANT. NONE OF MY TALISMANS SURVIVED TWO THOUSAND YEARS.
I'LL FIND SOMETHING! I HAVE *GREAT* TREASURE!
YOUR SOUL WAS "PROTECTED" BEFORE AND YOU STILL KILLED YOUR FATHER.
ARCTIC WAS A TRAITOR WHO PLANNED TO *HELP THE ICEWINGS WIPE US OUT!* HE WAS GOING TO SELL MY SISTER TO THEM! I PROTECTED *THE WHOLE TRIBE!* I'M SHOCKED EVERYONE'S FORGOTTEN.
WELL, WATCHING A DRAGON DISEMBOWEL HIMSELF PROBABLY AFFECTED THEIR MEMORIES.
WAIT, WHAT?
DID I SAY DISEMBOWEL? I WAS EXAGGERATING. IT WAS A SIMPLE HONOR SUICIDE. EVEN *HE* KNEW HE DESERVED IT.
I'M ONLY TRYING TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T OVERUSE YOUR POWER AND HURT SOMEONE.
I CAN SEE THE FUTURE, REMEMBER? I KNOW HOW TO AVOID THAT.

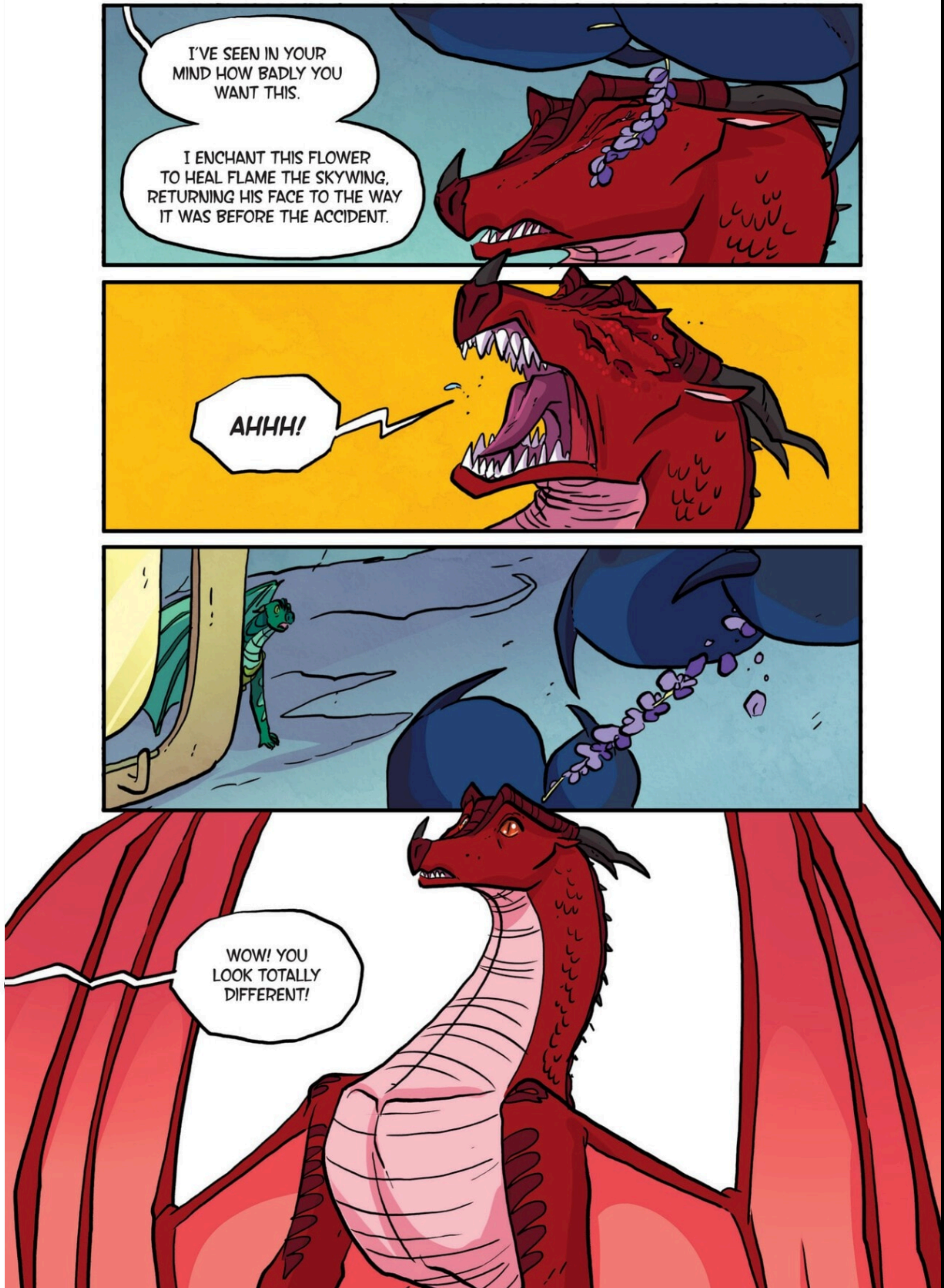

I CAN SHOW YOU TIMELINES FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS, MOON. I CAN HELP YOU PICK WHICH POSSIBLE FUTURE YOU WANT– ALTHOUGH FRANKLY, *NEITHER* OF THOSE TWO DRAGONS IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.
NO, THANK YOU! *LA LA LA IGNORING YOU!*
HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME? *I* WANT TO SEE THE FUTURE!
ANYTHING YOU WANT, PRINCESS. YOU BOTH HAVE AMAZING POSSIBLE FUTURES. TRUST ME, AND WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET THE RIGHT ONE.
I'M GOING TO GET MY TREASURE. IT'S AWESOME. YOU'LL SEE!
*THAT **EARRING**– WAS DARKSTALKER WEARING IT BEFORE?*
DIDN'T HE SAY NOTHING HE HAD SURVIVED? SO IT'S NEW... COULD IT BE A BONE FROM PREY HE CAUGHT WHILE HUNTING?
HAS HE CAST A SPELL ON IT?
*AND IF SO... **WHAT** SPELL?*

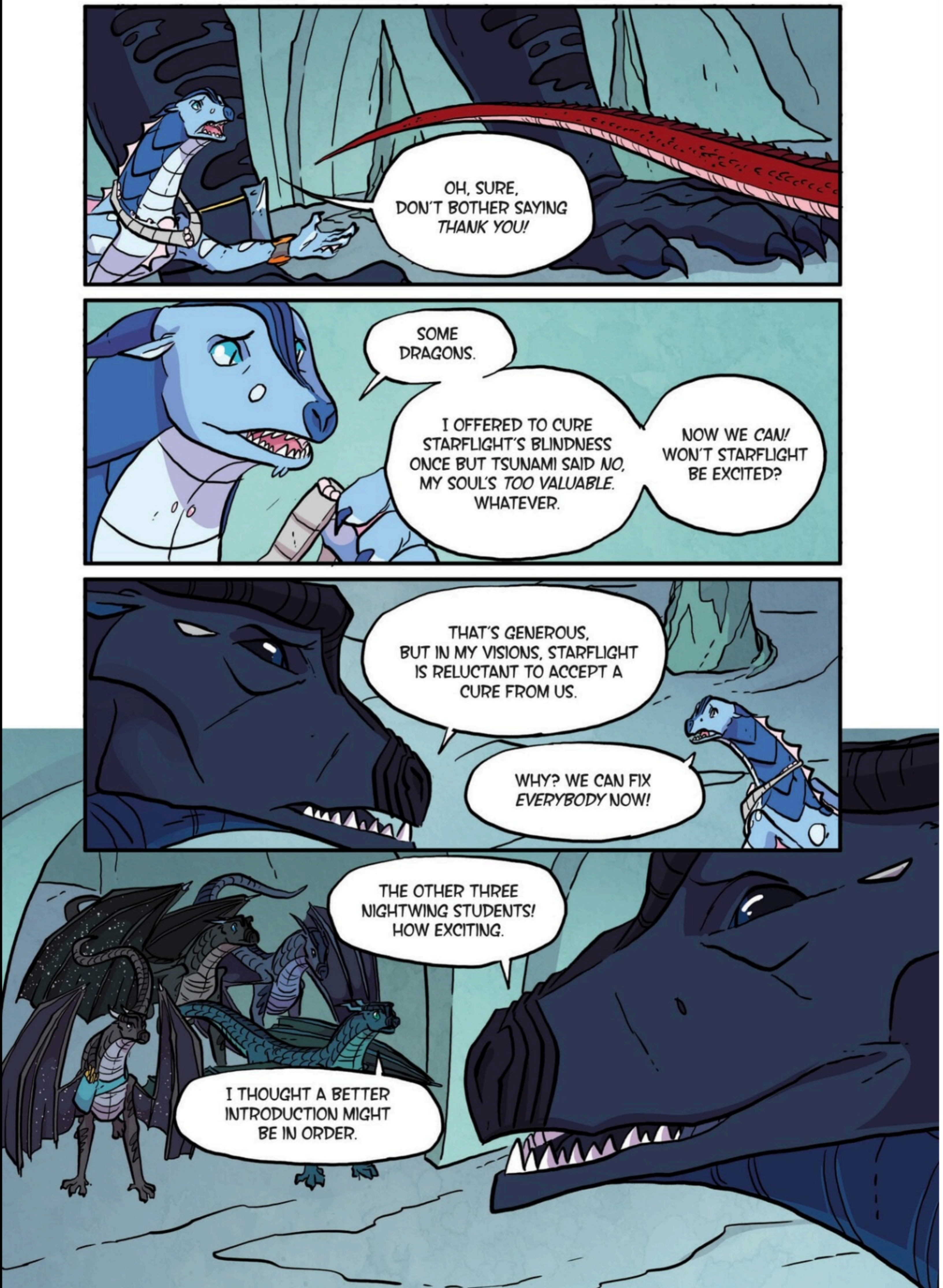

I'M GOING TO CHECK IN WITH STARFLIGHT.
I'LL GO WITH YOU, TSUNAMI.
*THEY'RE LEAVING... I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE HERE. SOMEONE ELSE SHOULD BE HIDDEN WITH ME. A BETTER SPY. A **REAL** HERO.*
THIS IS MY BEST STUFF. I COULDN'T CARRY *ALL* MY TREASURE MYSELF, OF COURSE.
*WOW. NO WONDER IT TOOK **TWO** OF US TO CARRY HER LUGGAGE HERE.*
HMM, THIS SHOULD FIT MY WRIST. MAYBE THIS NECKLACE FOR YOU?
OH... SURE. I MEAN, I NEVER LIKED IT BEFORE, BUT IF *YOU* DO, I *LOVE* IT.
I ENCHANT THIS BRACELET TO PROTECT MY SOUL FROM THE EFFECTS OF ANIMUS MAGIC FOREVER.
CLICK

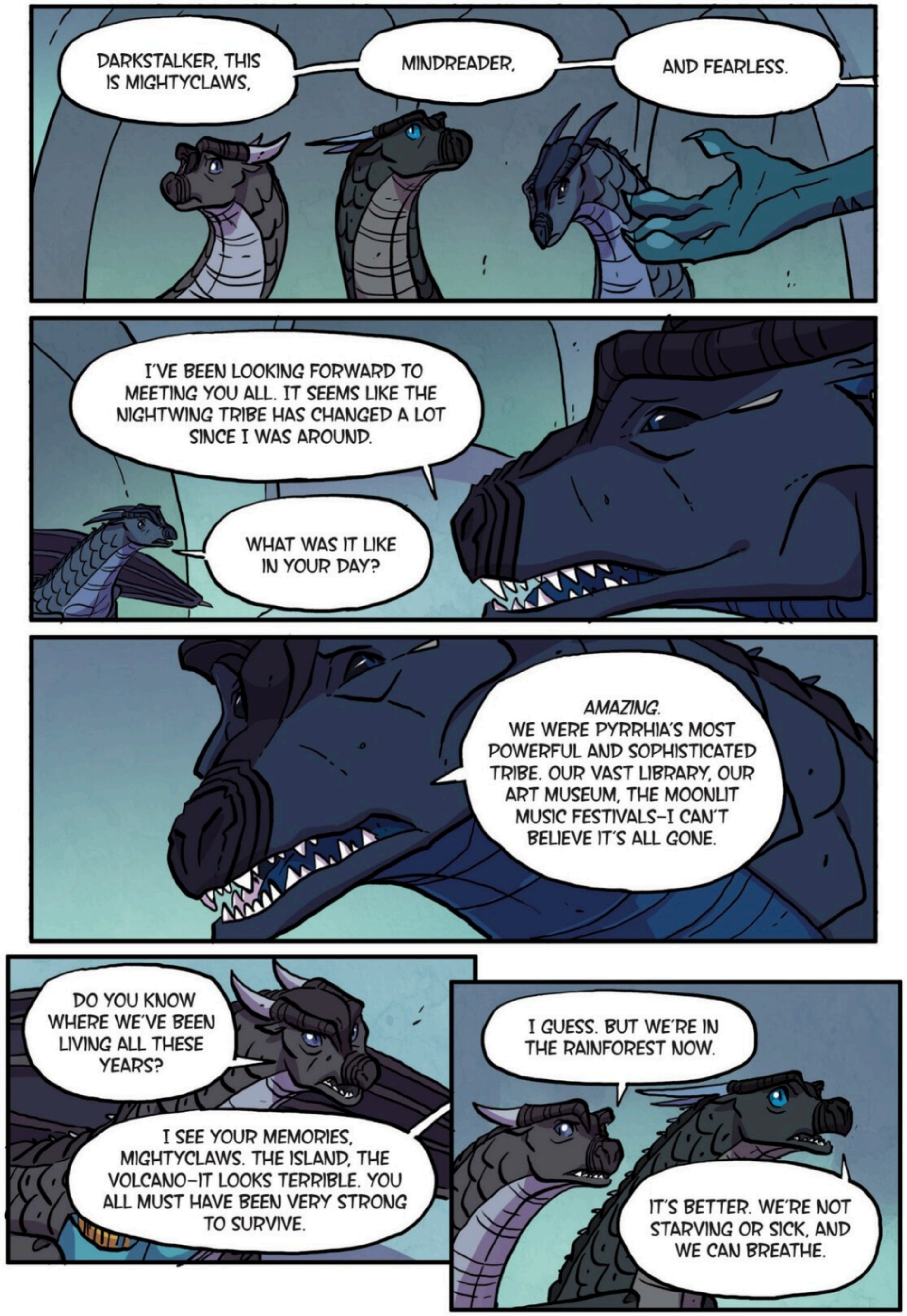

WELL, THREE MOONS, I CAN DO *THAT!* I SHOULD HAVE DONE IT MONTHS AGO!
WAIT—MY SOUL IS SAFE NOW, PRINCESS. LET ME ENCHANT YOUR NECKLACE.
GREAT IDEA!
NO! ANEMONE, ***DON'T TRUST HIM!*** *WHO KNOWS WHAT SPELL HE MIGHT CAST?*
EVEN IF THE ENCHANTMENT ***SOUNDS*** *THE SAME, HE COULD ADD SOMETHING WITHOUT SPEAKING!*
WHAT CAN I DO? I NEED MORE TIME—
OH, ANEMONE. I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY, ***I'M SORRY.***
I ENCHANT THIS NECKLACE TO PROTECT ANEMONE'S SOUL FROM THE EFFECTS OF ANIMUS MAGIC FOREVER.
TAP TAP
THIS IS SO COOL. NOW WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT!
THAT'S THE IDEA!
KLICK

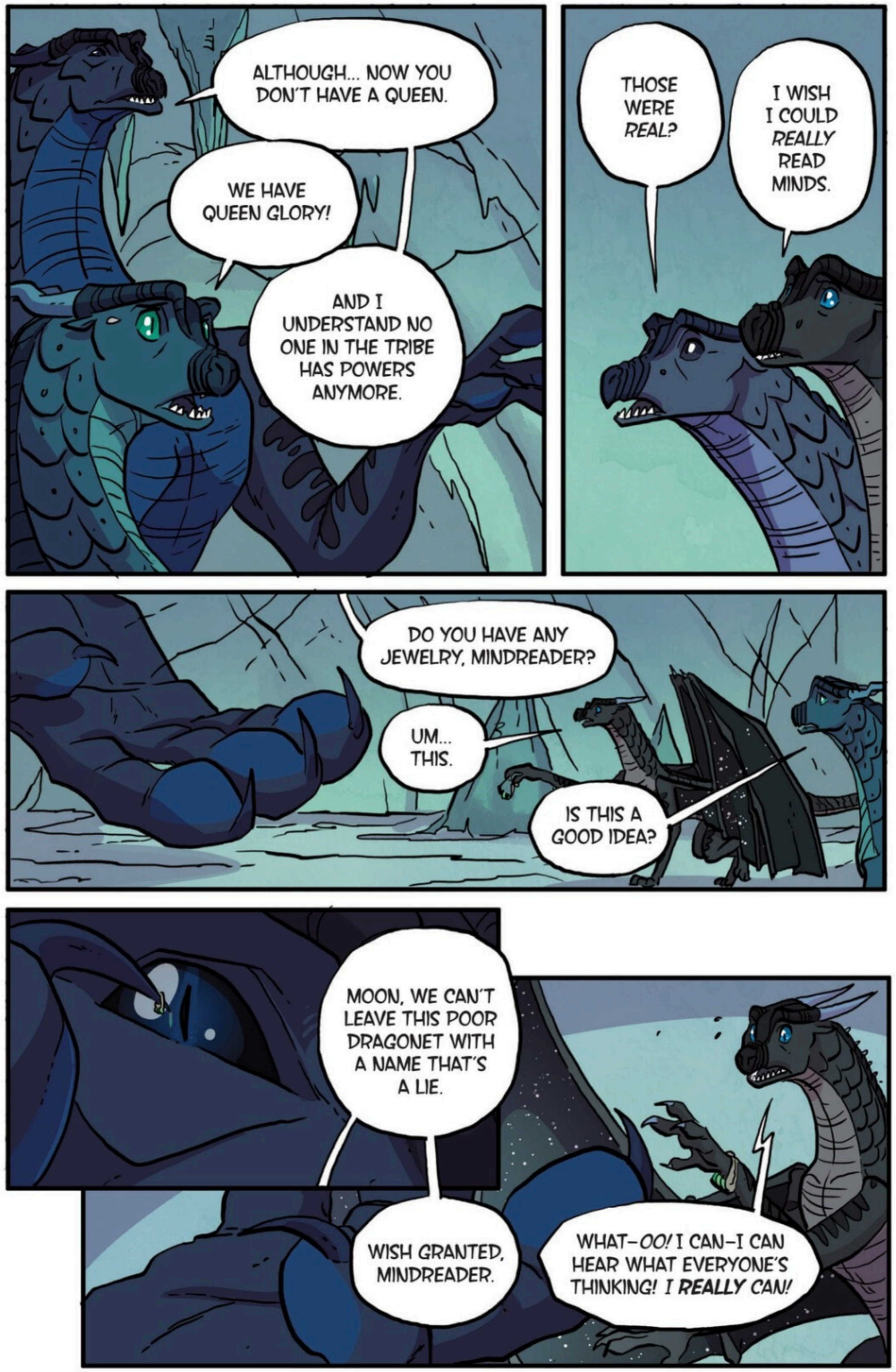

AH, HELLO, *FLAME.* I SEE YOU'RE ADMIRING ANEMONE'S TREASURE.

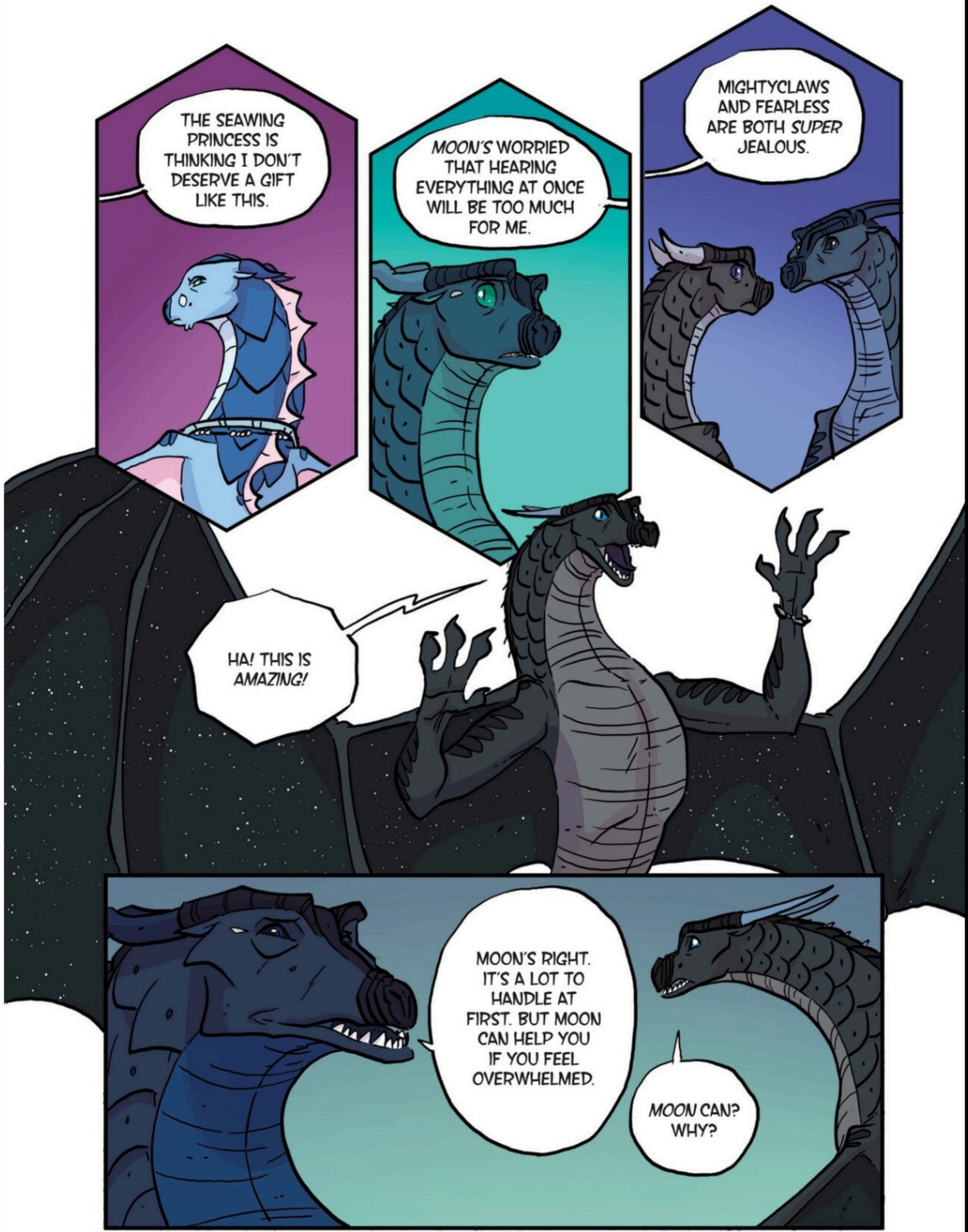

STAY OUT OF MY HEAD.
WITH PLEASURE.
YOU KNOW, FLAME, I COULD FIX YOUR FACE.
DON'T *LIE* TO ME. I ALREADY ASKED AN ANIMUS AND HE SAID HE COULDN'T.
SLITHERING TOADSTOOL WORM.
STONEMOVER? I WONDER WHY HE SAID NO–IT WOULDN'T BE THAT HARD.
HE MOANED AND GRIPED LIKE IT WOULD KILL HIM. HE SAID HE CAN'T CURE EVERY WOUNDED DRAGON SO WHY START. FESTERING ROTTED LUNGFISH!
OH DEAR. WELL, I'M SURE HE HAS HIS REASONS. BUT *I* CERTAINLY COULD DO IT... IF YOU WANT.
NO STRINGS ATTACHED? *HA!* I DON'T BUY IT.
I HAVE A LOT TO MAKE UP FOR. WHAT'S THE WORD... OH, I'M *ATONING*. I NEED M–
I NEED *EVERYONE* TO SEE I'M HERE TO HELP. WHY SHOULDN'T I HELP YOU, FLAME?
I DON'T NEED YOUR PITY!

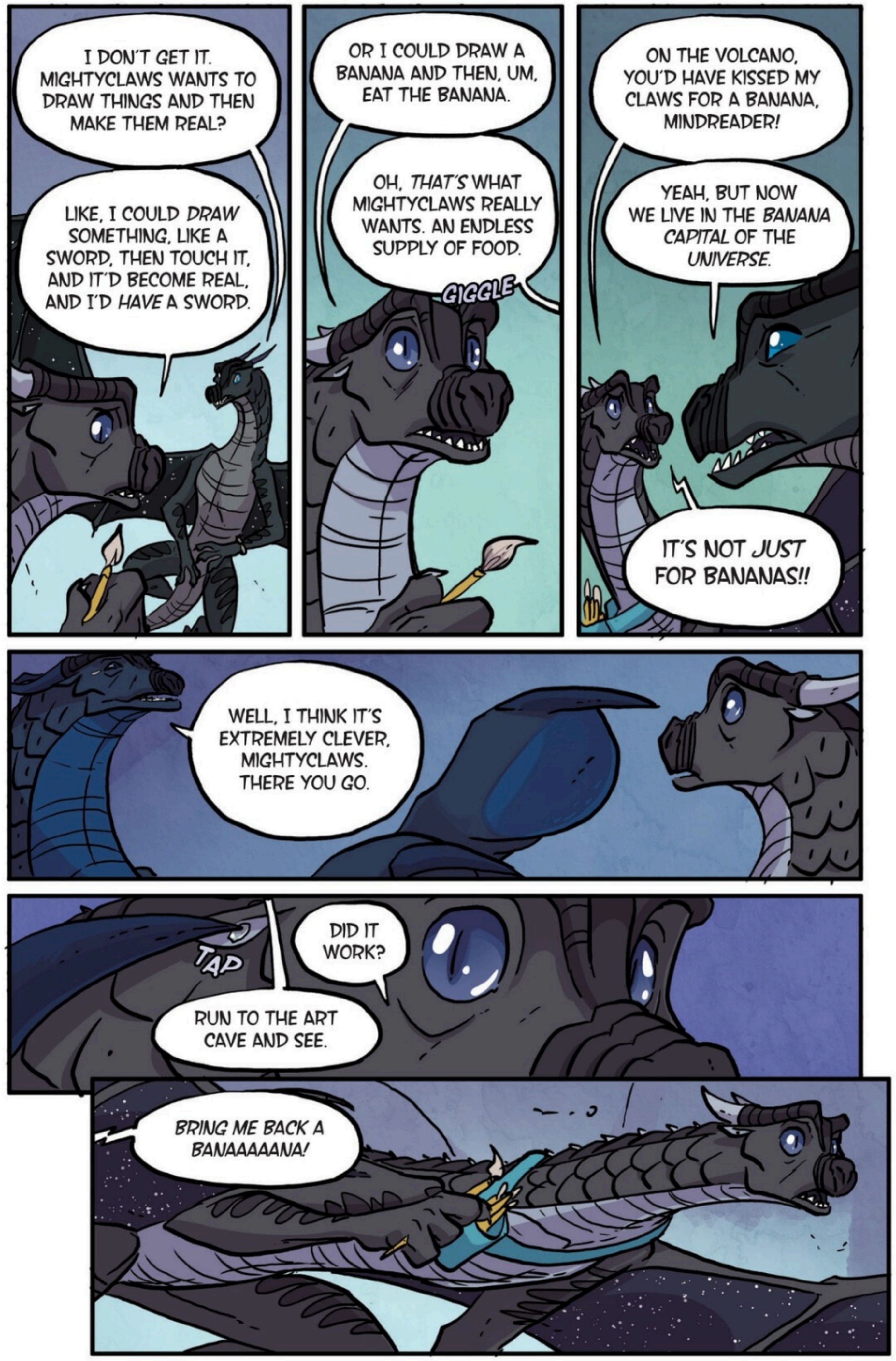

I'VE SEEN IN YOUR MIND HOW BADLY YOU WANT THIS.
I ENCHANT THIS FLOWER TO HEAL FLAME THE SKYWING, RETURNING HIS FACE TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.
AHHH!
WOW! YOU LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT!

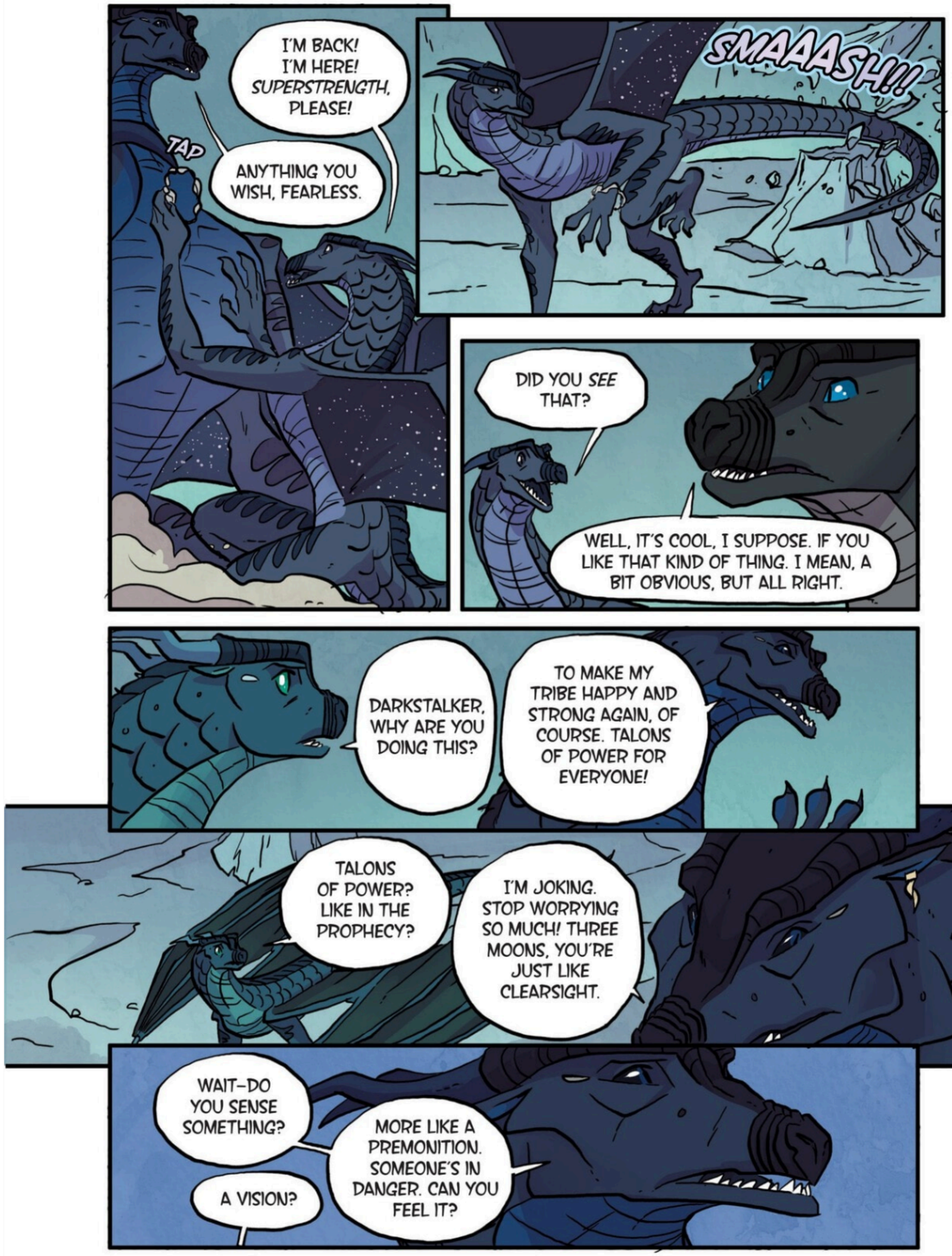

OH, SURE, DON'T BOTHER SAYING *THANK YOU!*
SOME DRAGONS.
I OFFERED TO CURE STARFLIGHT'S BLINDNESS ONCE BUT TSUNAMI SAID *NO,* MY SOUL'S *TOO VALUABLE.* WHATEVER.
NOW WE *CAN!* WON'T STARFLIGHT BE EXCITED?
THAT'S GENEROUS, BUT IN MY VISIONS, STARFLIGHT IS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT A CURE FROM US.
WHY? WE CAN FIX *EVERYBODY* NOW!
THE OTHER THREE NIGHTWING STUDENTS! HOW EXCITING.
I THOUGHT A BETTER INTRODUCTION MIGHT BE IN ORDER.

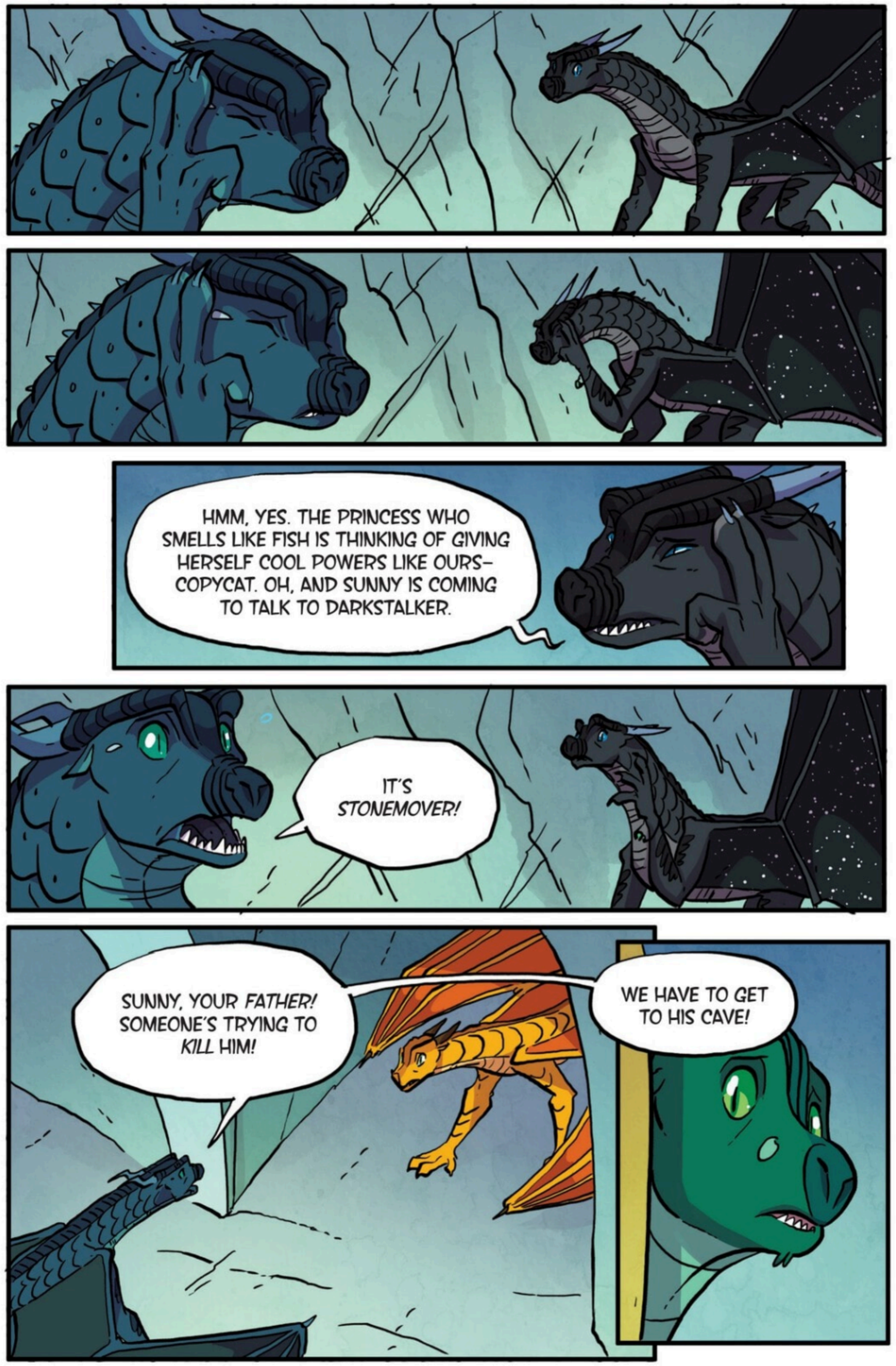

DARKSTALKER, THIS IS MIGHTYCLAWS,
MINDREADER,
AND FEARLESS.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ALL. IT SEEMS LIKE THE NIGHTWING TRIBE HAS CHANGED A LOT SINCE I WAS AROUND.
WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN YOUR DAY?
AMAZING. WE WERE PYRRHIA'S MOST POWERFUL AND SOPHISTICATED TRIBE. OUR VAST LIBRARY, OUR ART MUSEUM, THE MOONLIT MUSIC FESTIVALS—I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALL GONE.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'VE BEEN LIVING ALL THESE YEARS?
I SEE YOUR MEMORIES, MIGHTYCLAWS. THE ISLAND, THE VOLCANO—IT LOOKS TERRIBLE. YOU ALL MUST HAVE BEEN VERY STRONG TO SURVIVE.
I GUESS. BUT WE'RE IN THE RAINFOREST NOW.
IT'S BETTER. WE'RE NOT STARVING OR SICK, AND WE CAN BREATHE.

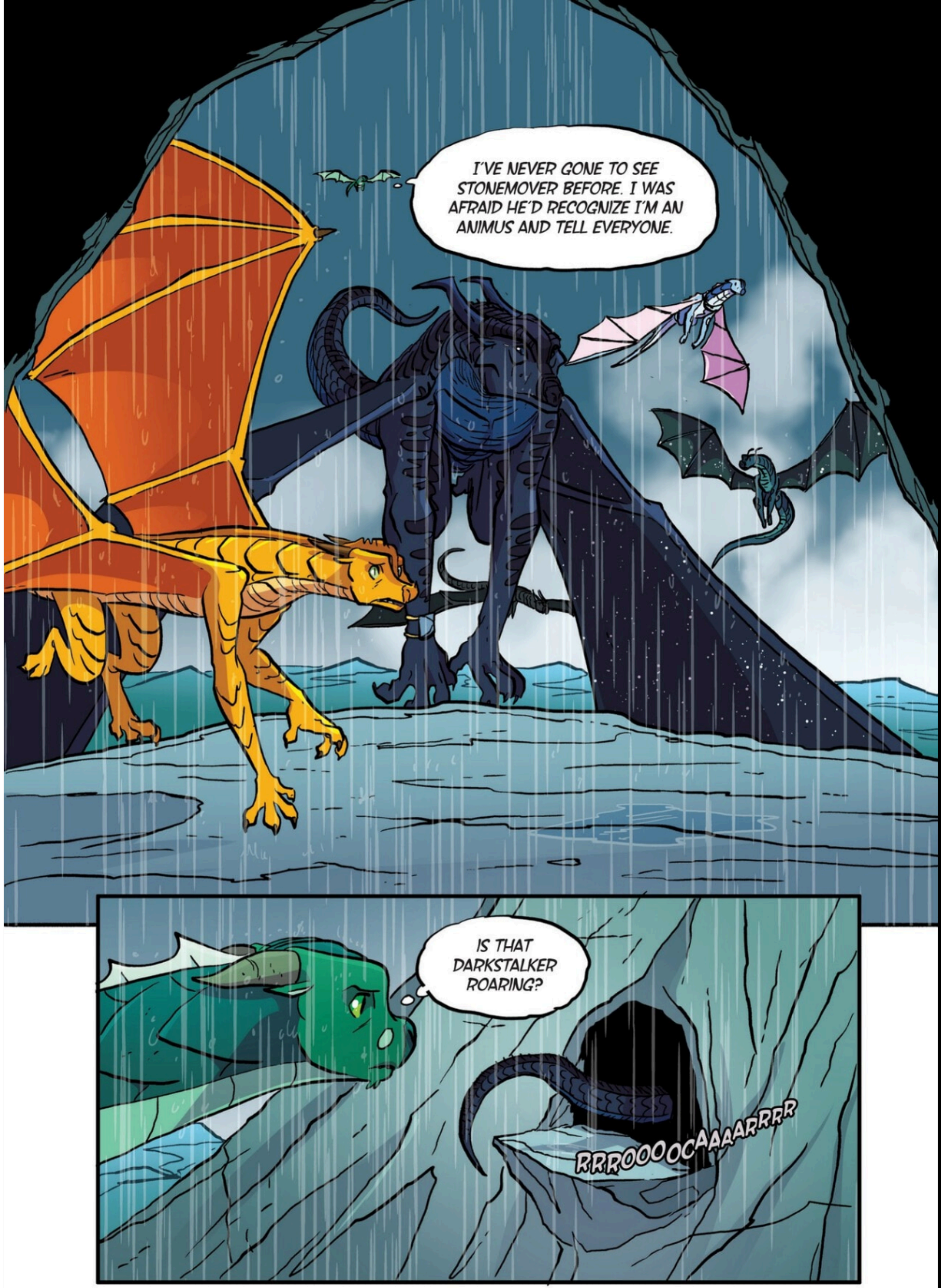

ALTHOUGH... NOW YOU DON'T HAVE A QUEEN.
WE HAVE QUEEN GLORY!
AND I UNDERSTAND NO ONE IN THE TRIBE HAS POWERS ANYMORE.
THOSE WERE *REAL?*
I WISH I COULD *REALLY* READ MINDS.
DO YOU HAVE ANY JEWELRY, MINDREADER?
UM... THIS.
IS THIS A GOOD IDEA?
MOON, WE CAN'T LEAVE THIS POOR DRAGONET WITH A NAME THAT'S A LIE.
WISH GRANTED, MINDREADER.
WHAT—*OO!* I CAN—I CAN HEAR WHAT EVERYONE'S THINKING! *I **REALLY** CAN!*

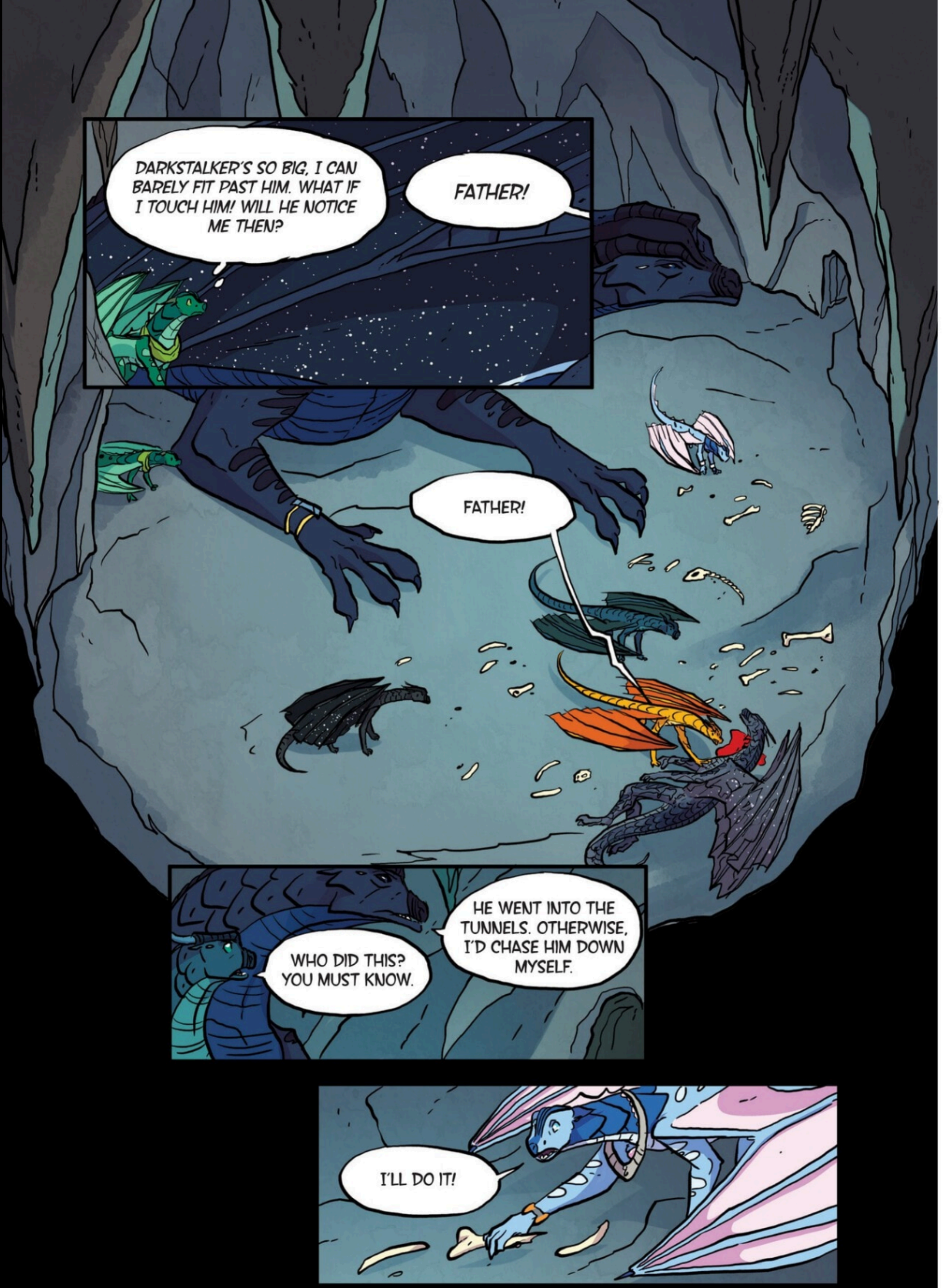

THE SEAWING PRINCESS IS THINKING I DON'T DESERVE A GIFT LIKE THIS.
MOON'S WORRIED THAT HEARING EVERYTHING AT ONCE WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR ME.
MIGHTYCLAWS AND FEARLESS ARE BOTH *SUPER* JEALOUS.
HA! *THIS IS AMAZING!*
MOON'S RIGHT. IT'S A LOT TO HANDLE AT FIRST. BUT MOON CAN HELP YOU IF YOU FEEL OVERWHELMED.
MOON CAN? WHY?

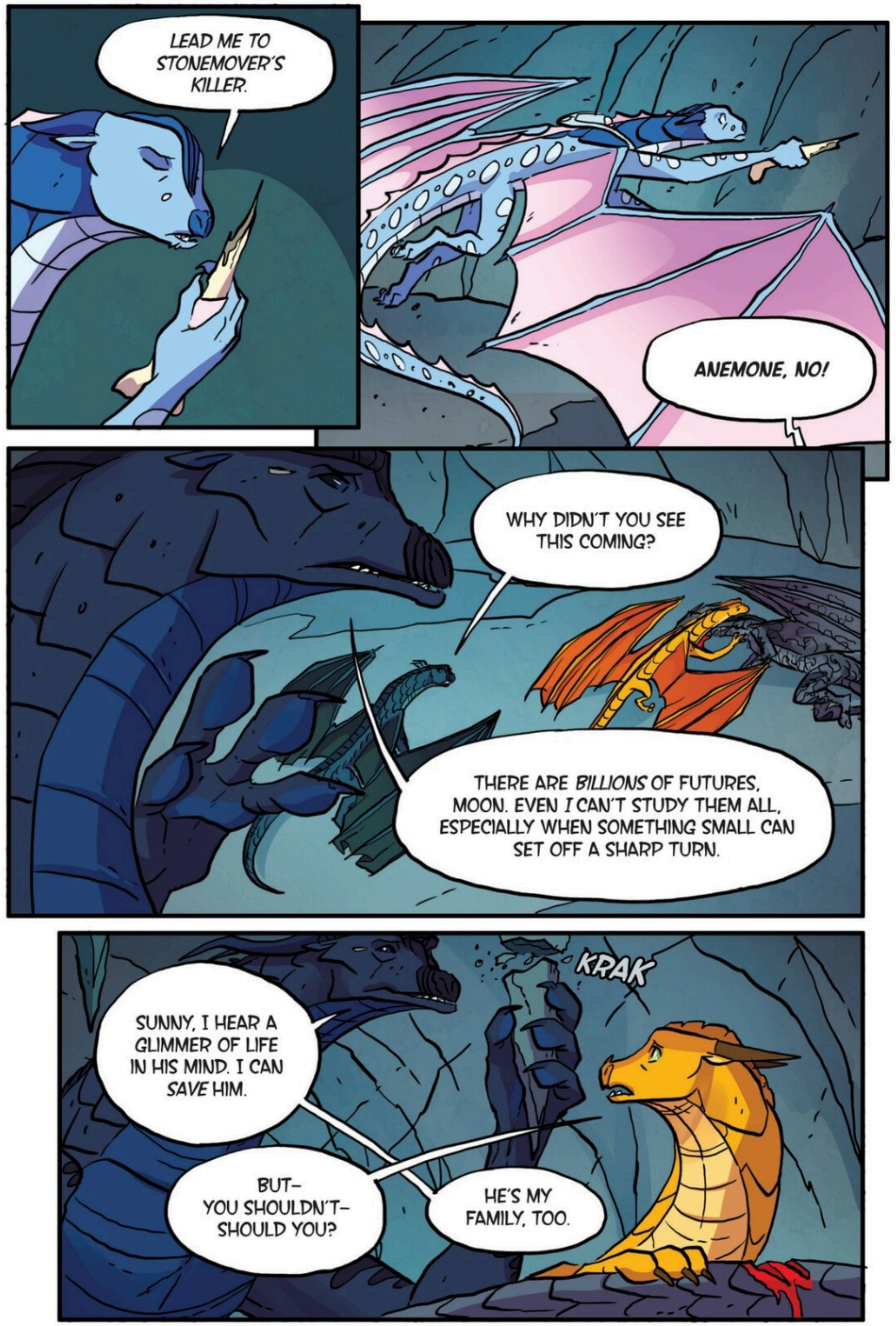

I DON'T GET IT. MIGHTYCLAWS WANTS TO DRAW THINGS AND THEN MAKE THEM REAL?
LIKE, I COULD *DRAW* SOMETHING, LIKE A SWORD, THEN TOUCH IT, AND IT'D BECOME REAL, AND I'D *HAVE* A SWORD.
OR I COULD DRAW A BANANA AND THEN, UM, EAT THE BANANA.
OH, *THAT'S* WHAT MIGHTYCLAWS REALLY WANTS. AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF FOOD.
GIGGLE
ON THE VOLCANO, YOU'D HAVE KISSED MY CLAWS FOR A BANANA, MINDREADER!
YEAH, BUT NOW WE LIVE IN THE *BANANA CAPITAL* OF THE *UNIVERSE.*
IT'S NOT *JUST* FOR BANANAS!!
WELL, I THINK IT'S EXTREMELY CLEVER, MIGHTYCLAWS. THERE YOU GO.
TAP
DID IT WORK?
RUN TO THE ART CAVE AND SEE.
BRING ME BACK A BANAAAAANA!

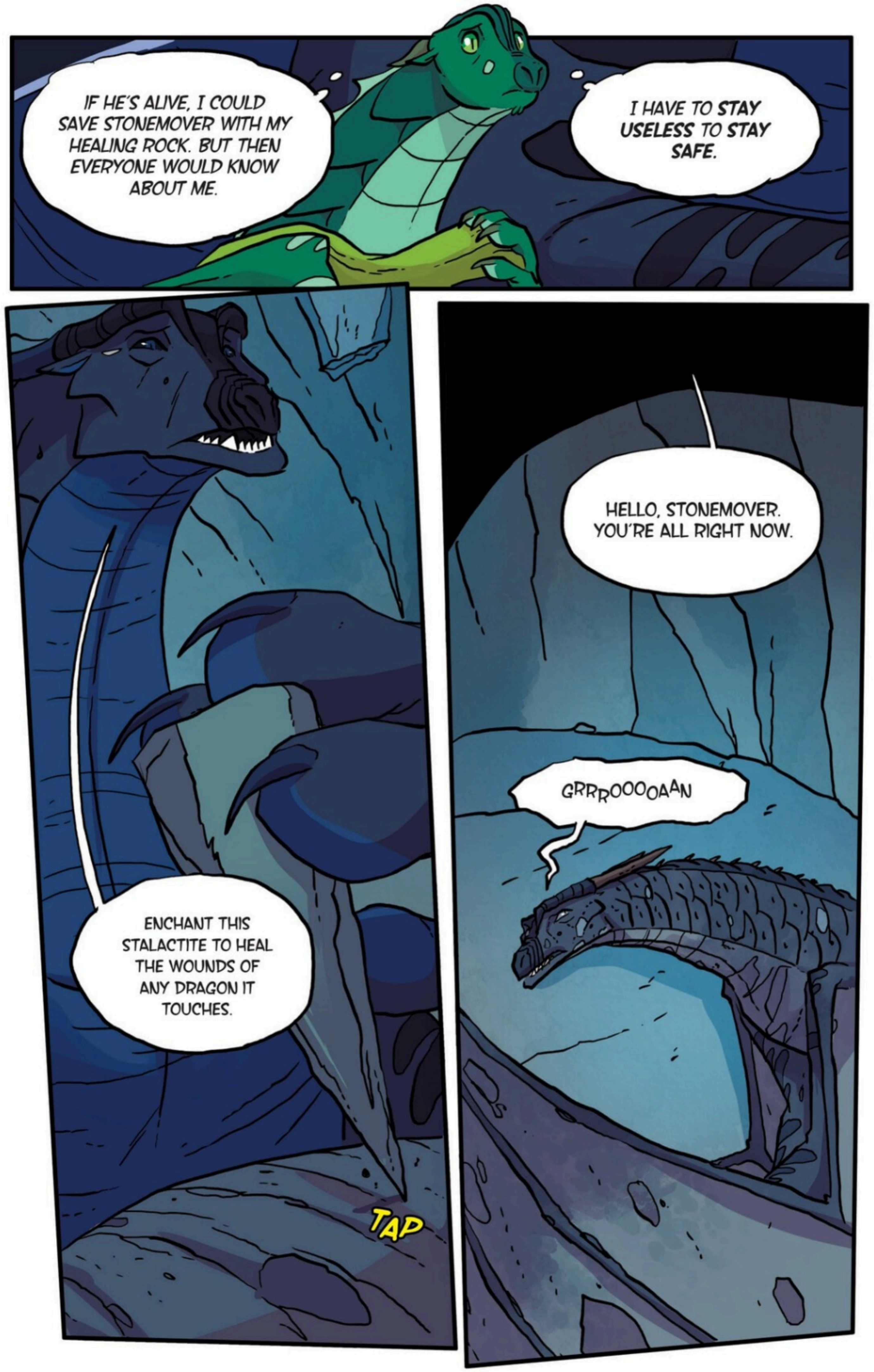

I'M BACK! I'M HERE! *SUPERSTRENGTH,* PLEASE!
TAP
ANYTHING YOU WISH, FEARLESS.
SMAAASH!!
DID YOU *SEE* THAT?
WELL, IT'S COOL, I SUPPOSE. IF YOU LIKE THAT KIND OF THING. I MEAN, A BIT OBVIOUS, BUT ALL RIGHT.
DARKSTALKER, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
TO MAKE MY TRIBE HAPPY AND STRONG AGAIN, OF COURSE. TALONS OF POWER FOR EVERYONE!
TALONS OF POWER? LIKE IN THE PROPHECY?
I'M JOKING. STOP WORRYING SO MUCH! THREE MOONS, YOU'RE JUST LIKE CLEARSIGHT.
WAIT—DO YOU SENSE SOMETHING?
A VISION?
MORE LIKE A PREMONITION. SOMEONE'S IN DANGER. CAN YOU FEEL IT?

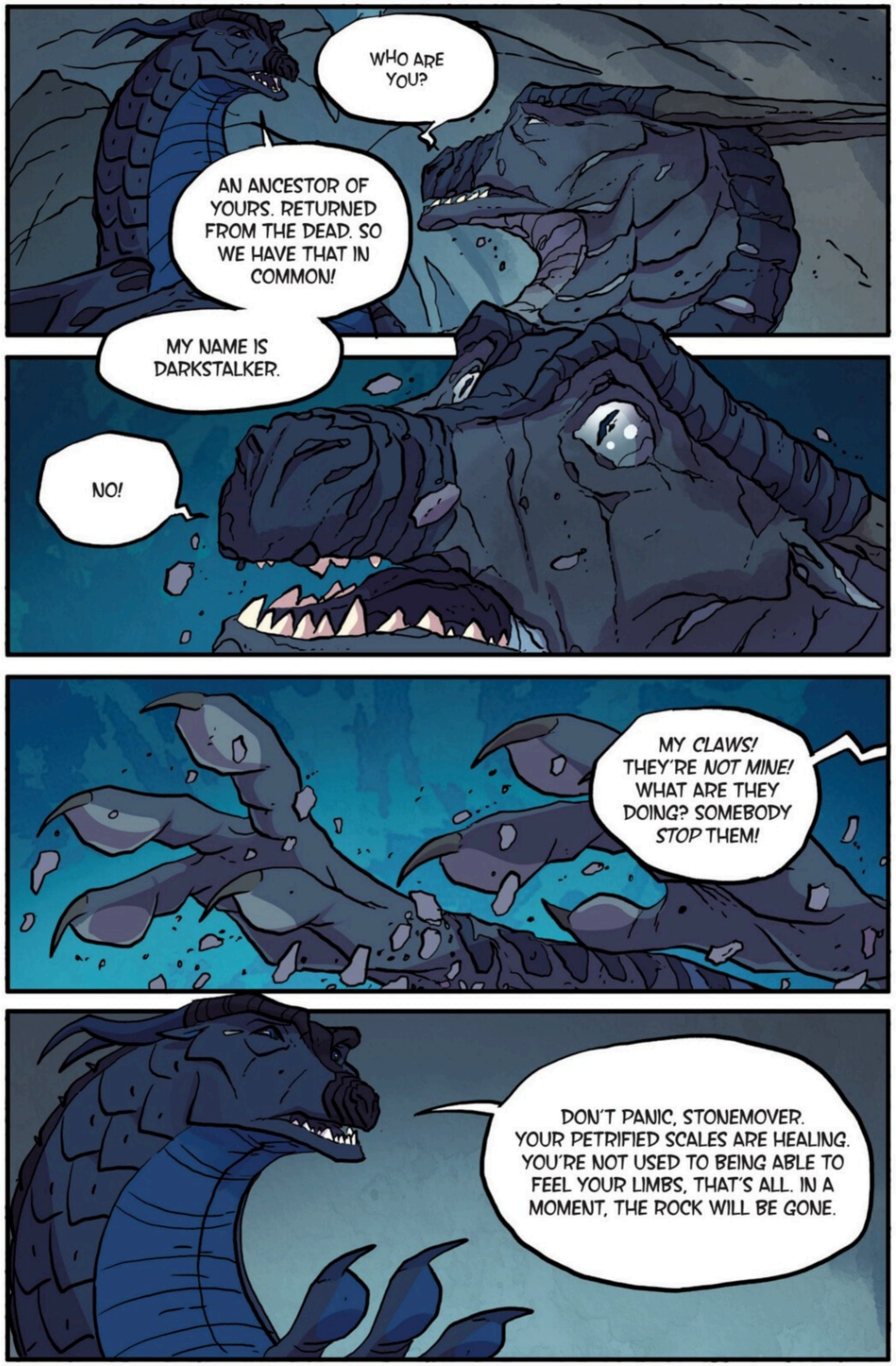

HMM, YES. THE PRINCESS WHO SMELLS LIKE FISH IS THINKING OF GIVING HERSELF COOL POWERS LIKE OURS—COPYCAT. OH, AND SUNNY IS COMING TO TALK TO DARKSTALKER.
IT'S STONEMOVER!
SUNNY, YOUR *FATHER!* SOMEONE'S TRYING TO *KILL* HIM!
WE HAVE TO GET TO HIS CAVE!

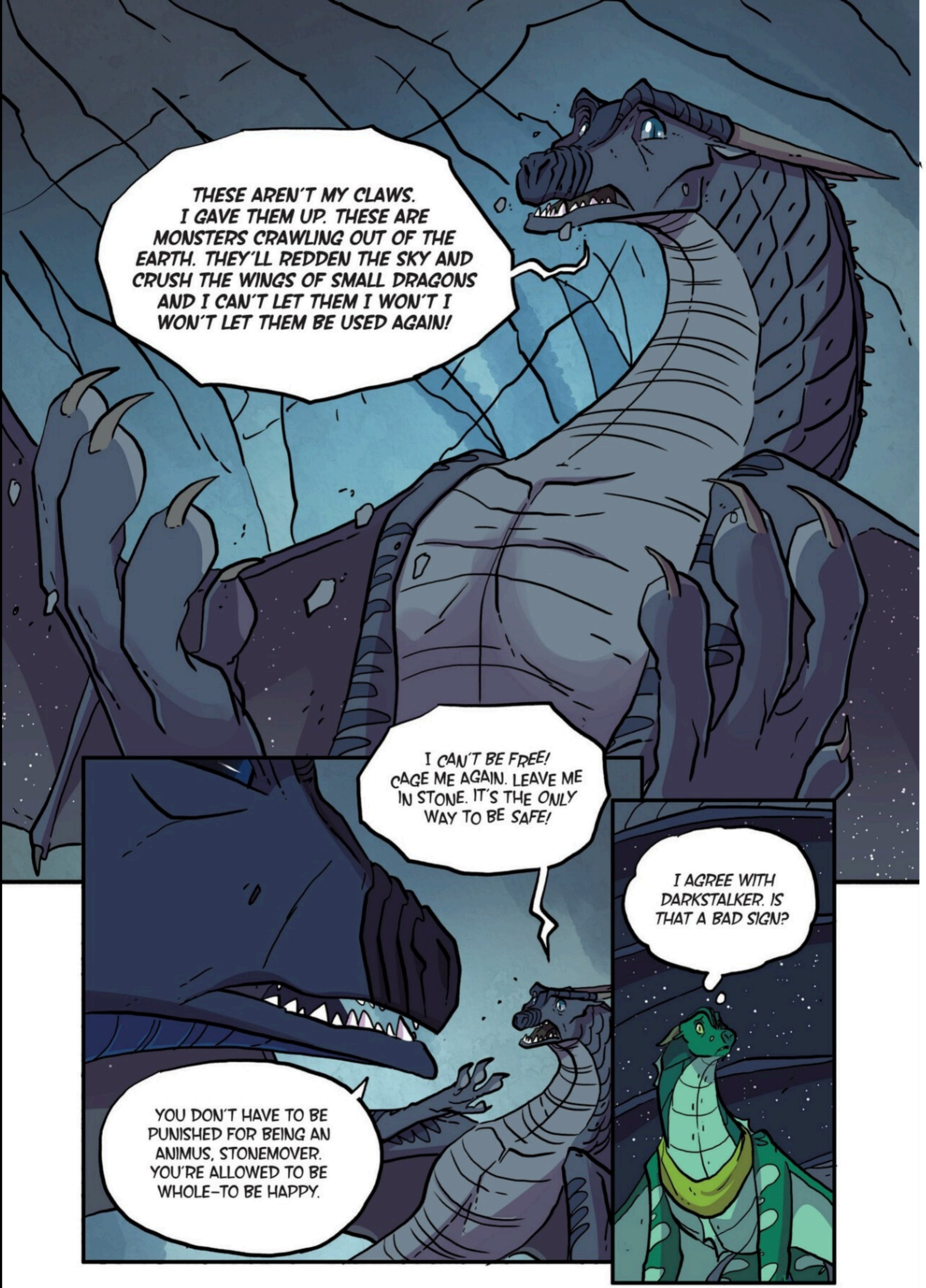

I'VE NEVER GONE TO SEE STONEMOVER BEFORE. I WAS AFRAID HE'D RECOGNIZE I'M AN ANIMUS AND TELL EVERYONE.
IS THAT DARKSTALKER ROARING?
RRROOOOCAAAARRRR

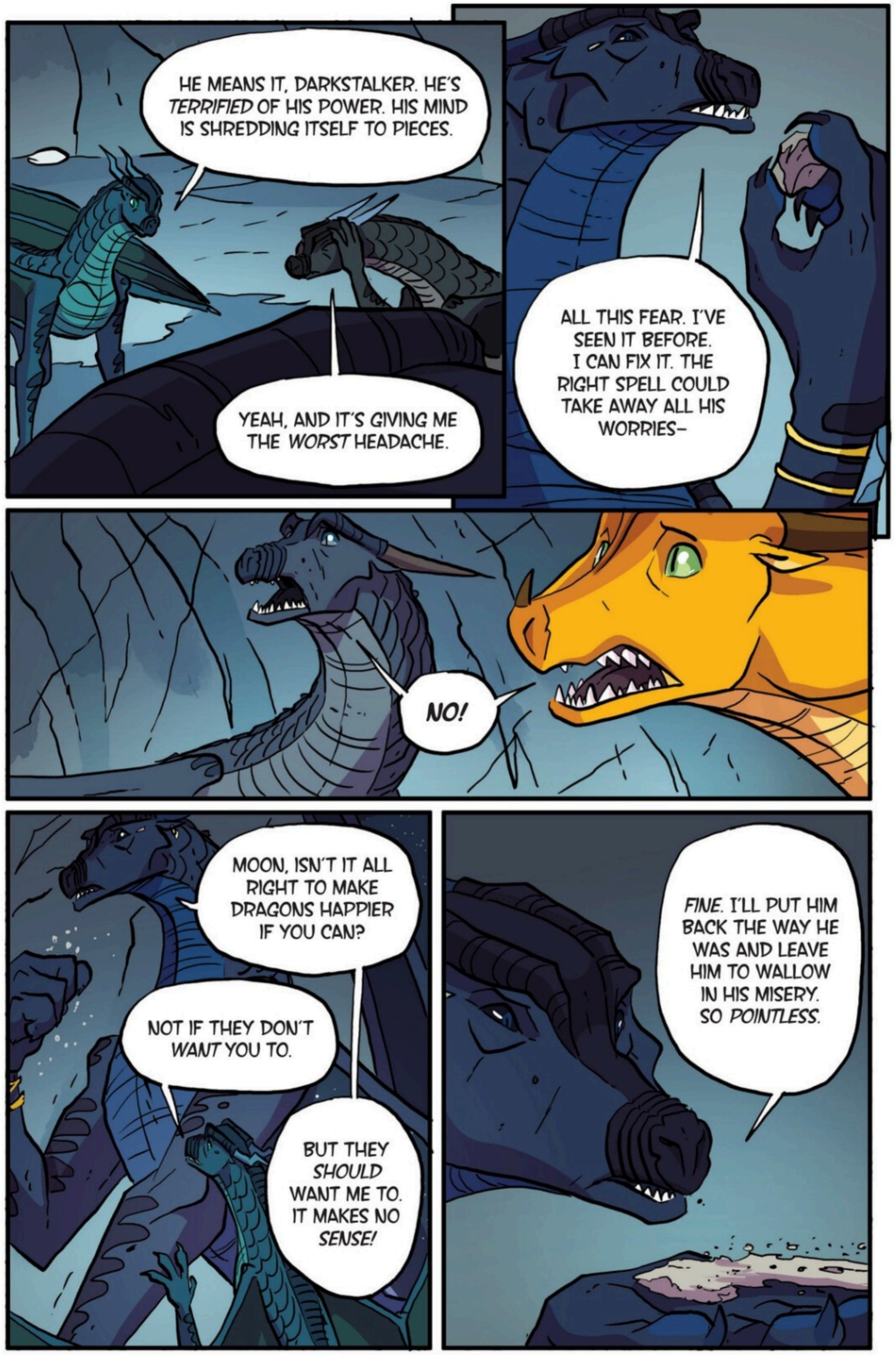

DARKSTALKER'S SO BIG, I CAN BARELY FIT PAST HIM. WHAT IF I TOUCH HIM! WILL HE NOTICE ME THEN?
FATHER!
FATHER!
WHO DID THIS? YOU MUST KNOW.
HE WENT INTO THE TUNNELS. OTHERWISE, I'D CHASE HIM DOWN MYSELF.
I'LL DO IT!

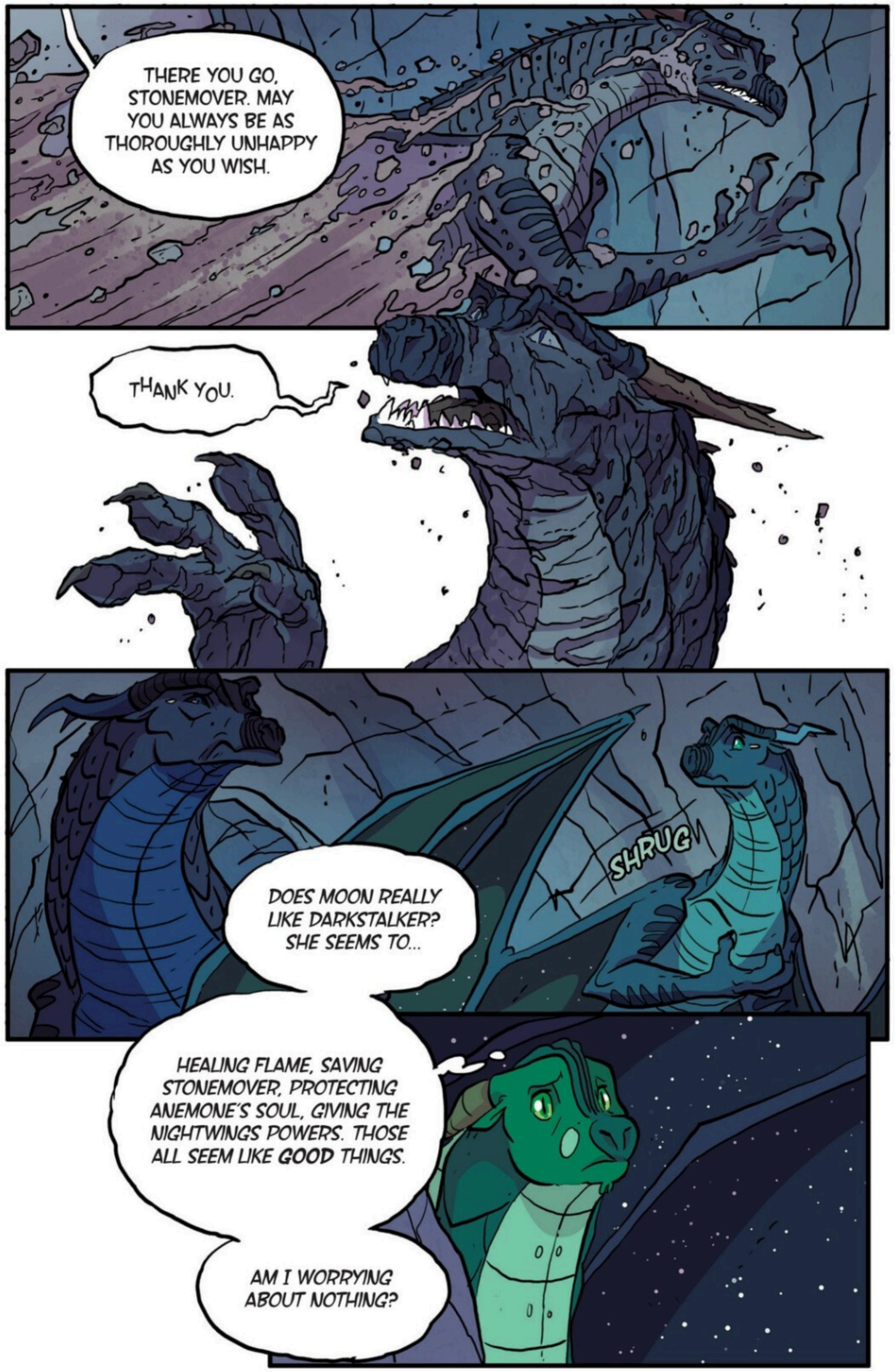

LEAD ME TO STONEMOVER'S KILLER.
ANEMONE, NO!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SEE THIS COMING?
THERE ARE *BILLIONS* OF FUTURES, MOON. EVEN *I* CAN'T STUDY THEM ALL, ESPECIALLY WHEN SOMETHING SMALL CAN SET OFF A SHARP TURN.
KRAK
SUNNY, I HEAR A GLIMMER OF LIFE IN HIS MIND. I CAN *SAVE* HIM.
BUT– YOU SHOULDN'T– SHOULD YOU?
HE'S MY FAMILY, TOO.

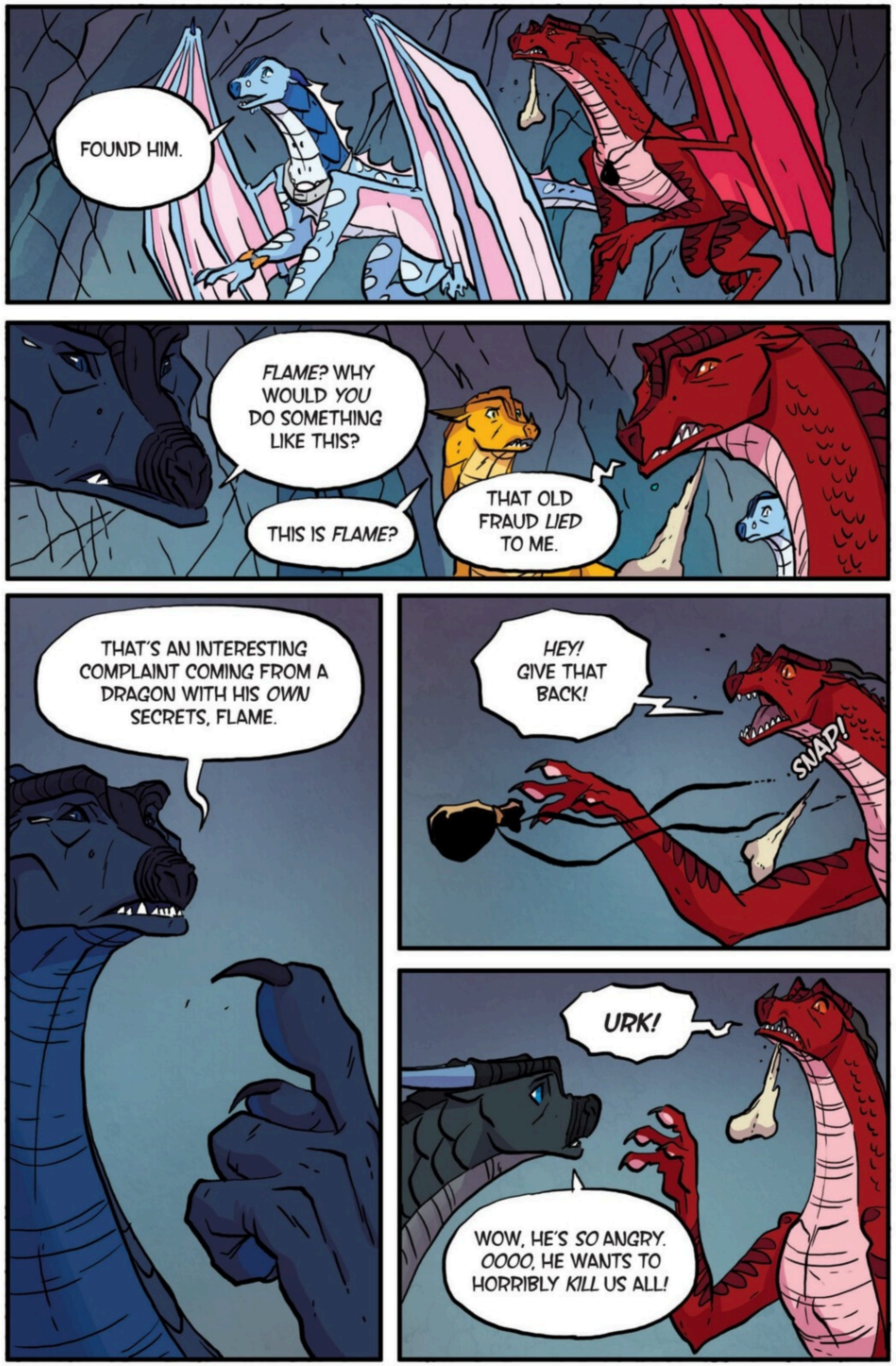

IF HE'S ALIVE, I COULD SAVE STONEMOVER WITH MY HEALING ROCK. BUT THEN EVERYONE WOULD KNOW ABOUT ME.
I HAVE TO **STAY USELESS** TO **STAY SAFE.**
ENCHANT THIS STALACTITE TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF ANY DRAGON IT TOUCHES.
TAP
HELLO, STONEMOVER. YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW.
GRRROOOOAAN

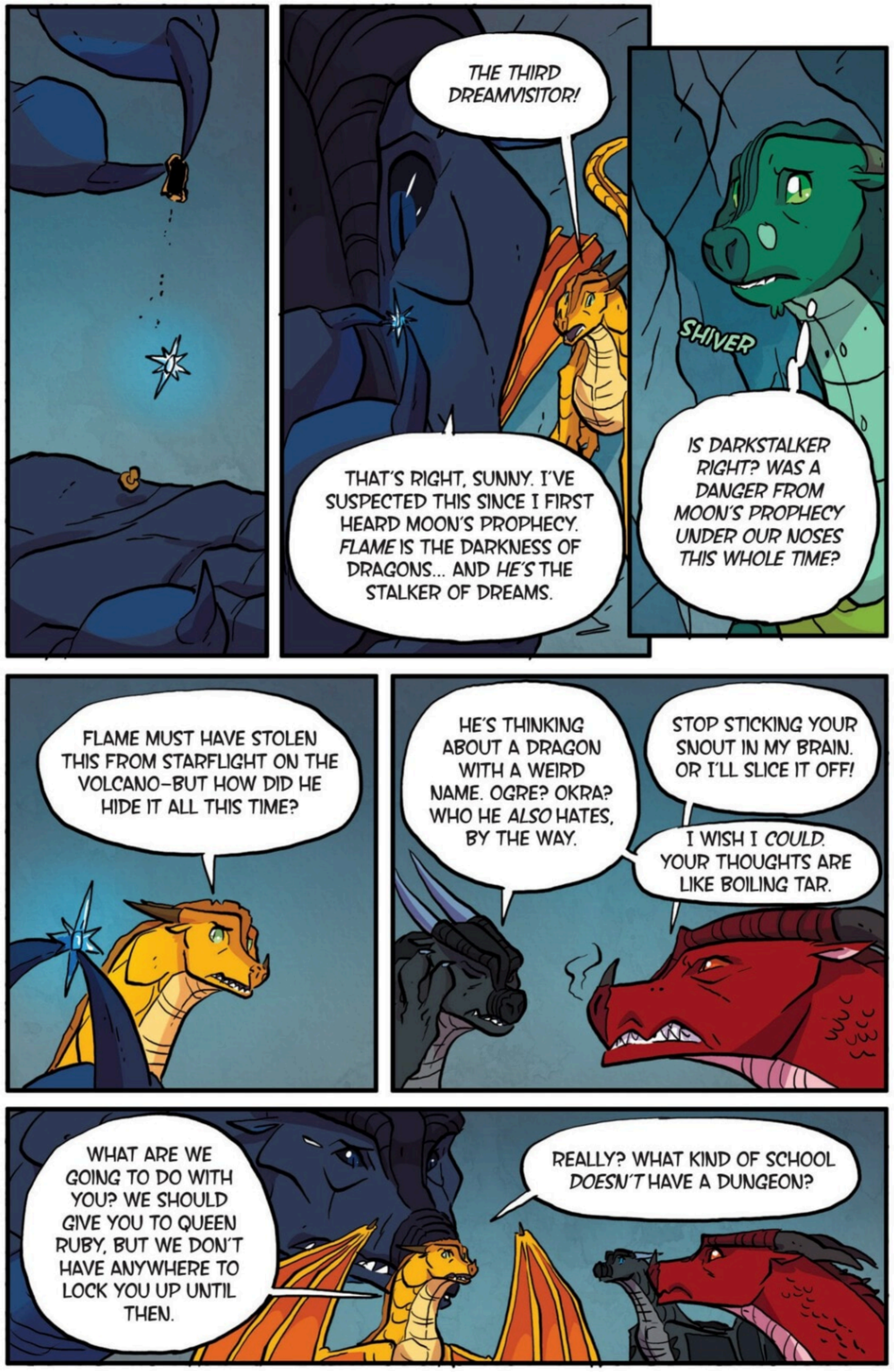

WHO ARE YOU?
AN ANCESTOR OF YOURS. RETURNED FROM THE DEAD. SO WE HAVE THAT IN COMMON!
MY NAME IS DARKSTALKER.
NO!
MY *CLAWS!* THEY'RE *NOT MINE!* WHAT ARE THEY DOING? SOMEBODY *STOP* THEM!
DON'T PANIC, STONEMOVER. YOUR PETRIFIED SCALES ARE HEALING. YOU'RE NOT USED TO BEING ABLE TO FEEL YOUR LIMBS, THAT'S ALL. IN A MOMENT, THE ROCK WILL BE GONE.

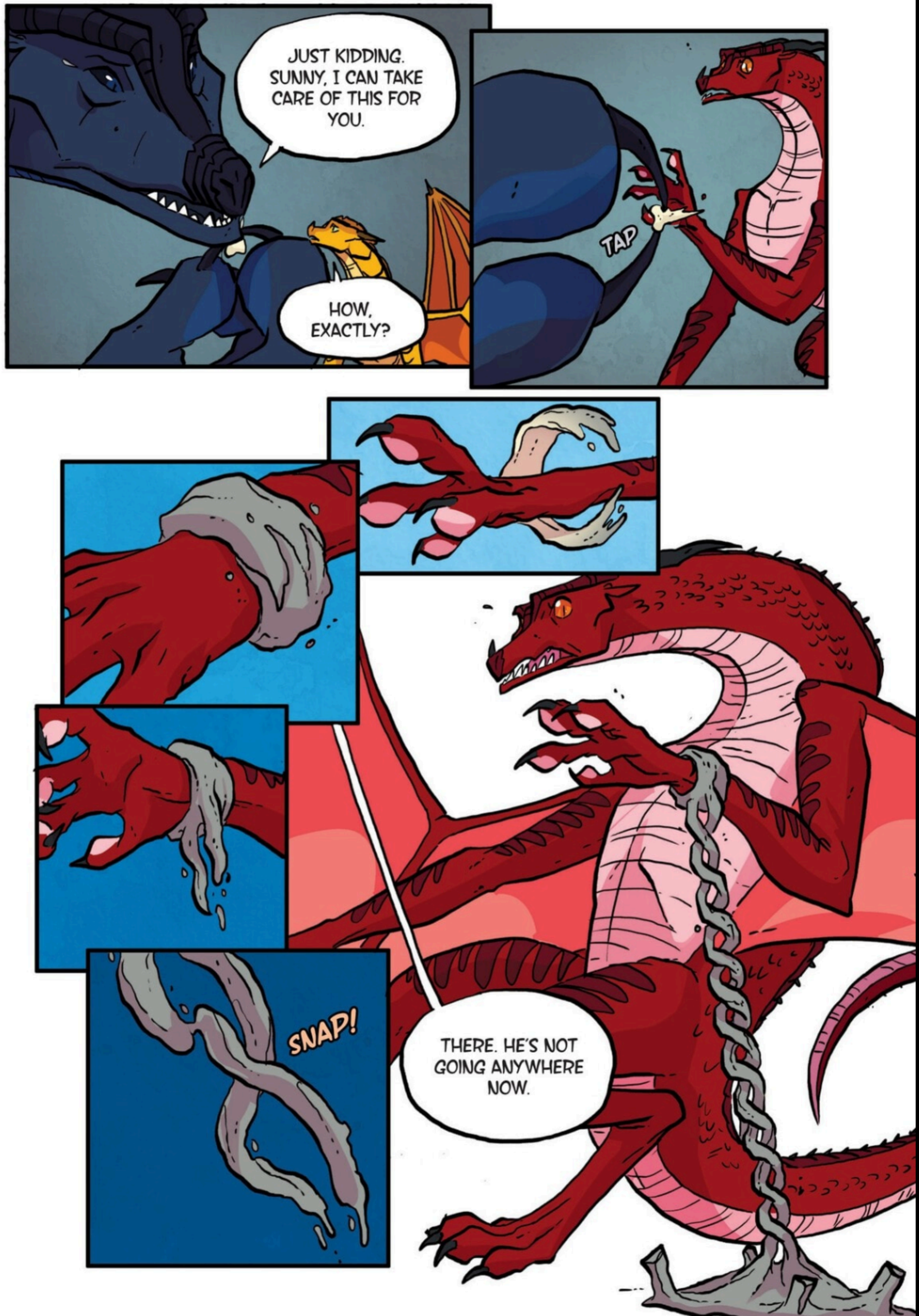

THESE AREN'T MY CLAWS. I GAVE THEM UP. THESE ARE MONSTERS CRAWLING OUT OF THE EARTH. THEY'LL REDDEN THE SKY AND CRUSH THE WINGS OF SMALL DRAGONS AND I CAN'T LET THEM I WON'T I WON'T LET THEM BE USED AGAIN!
I CAN'T BE FREE! CAGE ME AGAIN. LEAVE ME IN STONE. IT'S THE *ONLY* WAY TO BE SAFE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PUNISHED FOR BEING AN ANIMUS, STONEMOVER. YOU'RE ALLOWED TO BE WHOLE—TO BE HAPPY.
I AGREE WITH DARKSTALKER. IS THAT A BAD SIGN?

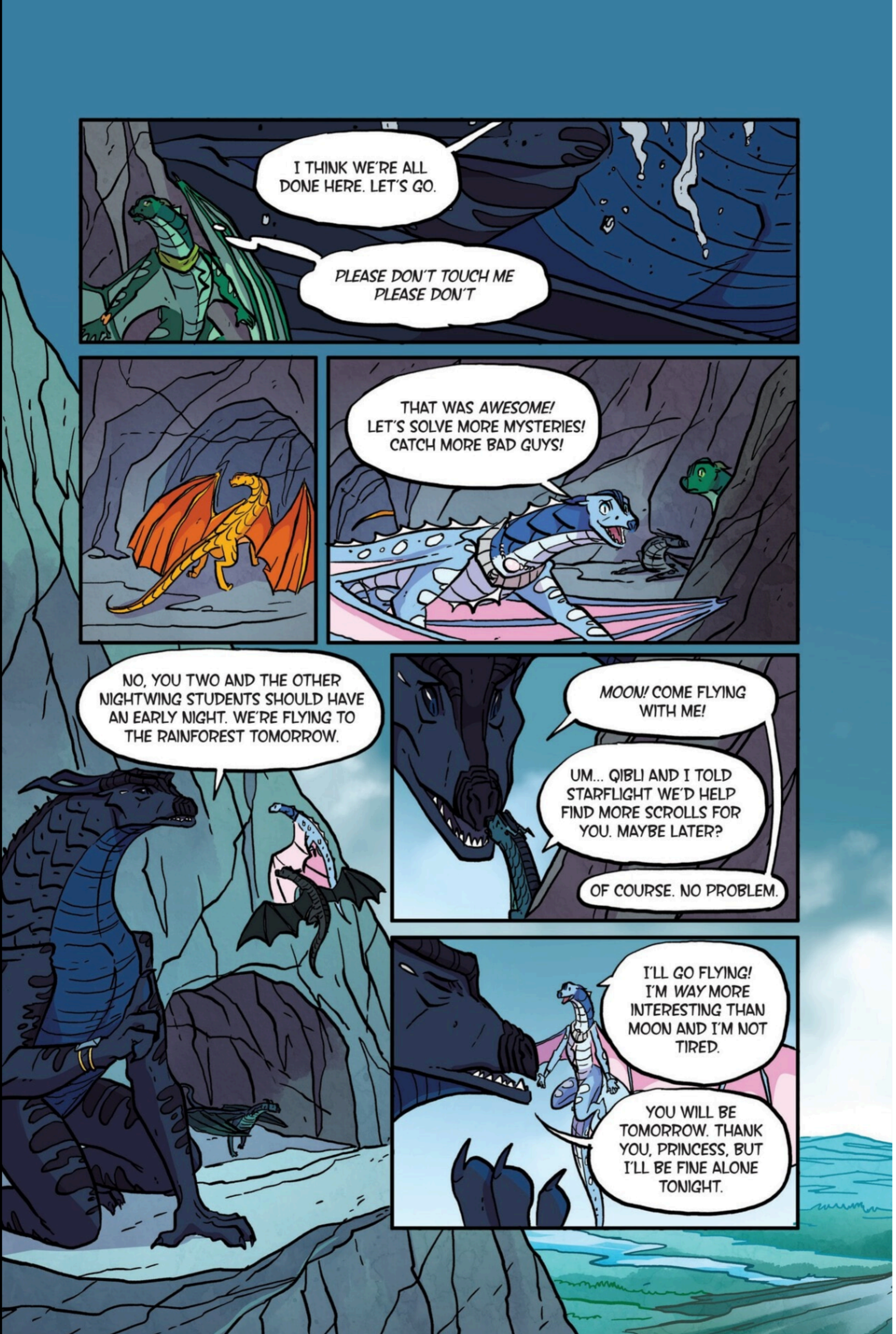

HE MEANS IT, DARKSTALKER. HE'S *TERRIFIED* OF HIS POWER. HIS MIND IS SHREDDING ITSELF TO PIECES.
YEAH, AND IT'S GIVING ME THE *WORST* HEADACHE.
ALL THIS FEAR. I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. I CAN FIX IT. THE RIGHT SPELL COULD TAKE AWAY ALL HIS WORRIES–
NO!
MOON, ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT TO MAKE DRAGONS HAPPIER IF YOU CAN?
NOT IF THEY DON'T *WANT* YOU TO.
BUT THEY *SHOULD* WANT ME TO. IT MAKES NO *SENSE!*
FINE. I'LL PUT HIM BACK THE WAY HE WAS AND LEAVE HIM TO WALLOW IN HIS MISERY. SO *POINTLESS.*

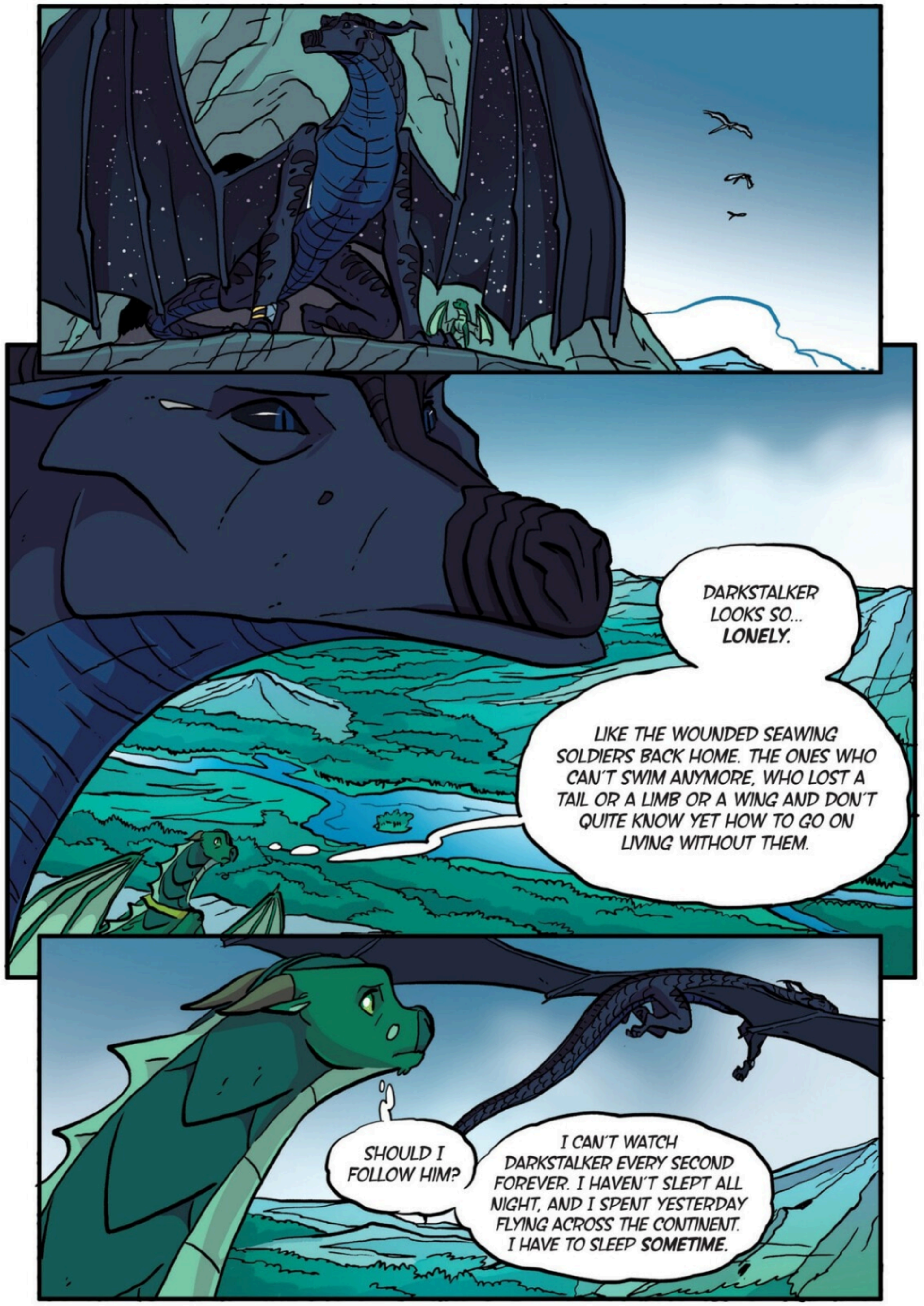

THERE YOU GO, STONEMOVER. MAY YOU ALWAYS BE AS THOROUGHLY UNHAPPY AS YOU WISH.
THANK YOU.
SHRUG
DOES MOON REALLY LIKE DARKSTALKER? SHE SEEMS TO...
*HEALING FLAME, SAVING STONEMOVER, PROTECTING ANEMONE'S SOUL, GIVING THE NIGHTWINGS POWERS. THOSE ALL SEEM LIKE **GOOD** THINGS.*
AM I WORRYING ABOUT NOTHING?

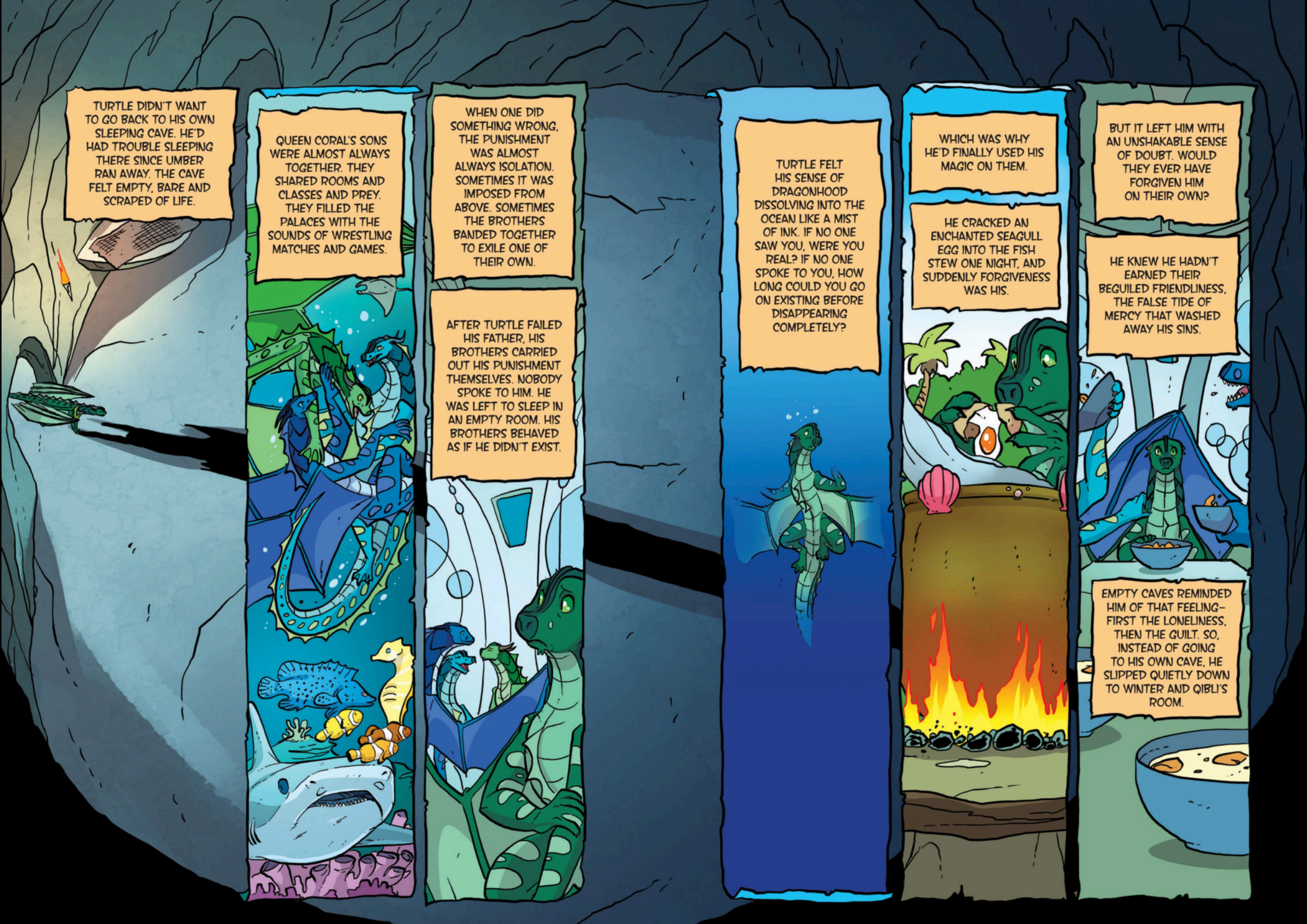

FOUND HIM.
FLAME? WHY WOULD *YOU* DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
THIS IS *FLAME?*
THAT OLD FRAUD *LIED* TO ME.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING COMPLAINT COMING FROM A DRAGON WITH HIS *OWN* SECRETS, FLAME.
HEY! GIVE THAT BACK!
SNAP!
URK!
WOW, HE'S *SO* ANGRY. *OOOO*, HE WANTS TO HORRIBLY *KILL* US ALL!

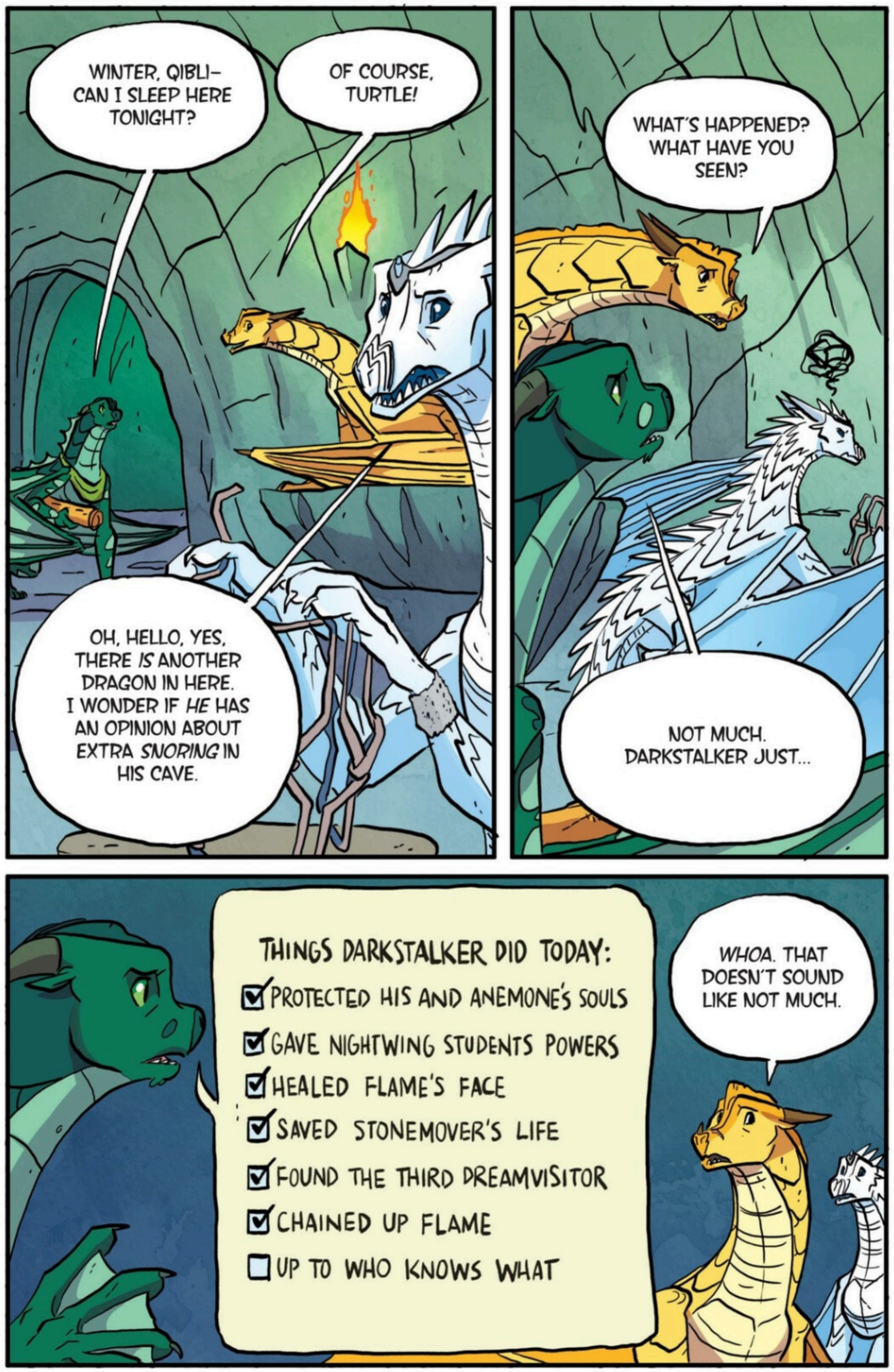

THE THIRD DREAMVISITOR!
THAT'S RIGHT, SUNNY. I'VE SUSPECTED THIS SINCE I FIRST HEARD MOON'S PROPHECY. *FLAME* IS THE DARKNESS OF DRAGONS... AND *HE'S* THE STALKER OF DREAMS.
SHIVER
IS DARKSTALKER RIGHT? WAS A DANGER FROM MOON'S PROPHECY UNDER OUR NOSES THIS WHOLE TIME?
FLAME MUST HAVE STOLEN THIS FROM STARFLIGHT ON THE VOLCANO—BUT HOW DID HE HIDE IT ALL THIS TIME?
HE'S THINKING ABOUT A DRAGON WITH A WEIRD NAME. OGRE? OKRA? WHO HE *ALSO* HATES, BY THE WAY.
STOP STICKING YOUR SNOUT IN MY BRAIN. OR I'LL SLICE IT OFF!
I WISH I *COULD*. YOUR THOUGHTS ARE LIKE BOILING TAR.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU? WE SHOULD GIVE YOU TO QUEEN RUBY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO LOCK YOU UP UNTIL THEN.
REALLY? WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL *DOESN'T* HAVE A DUNGEON?

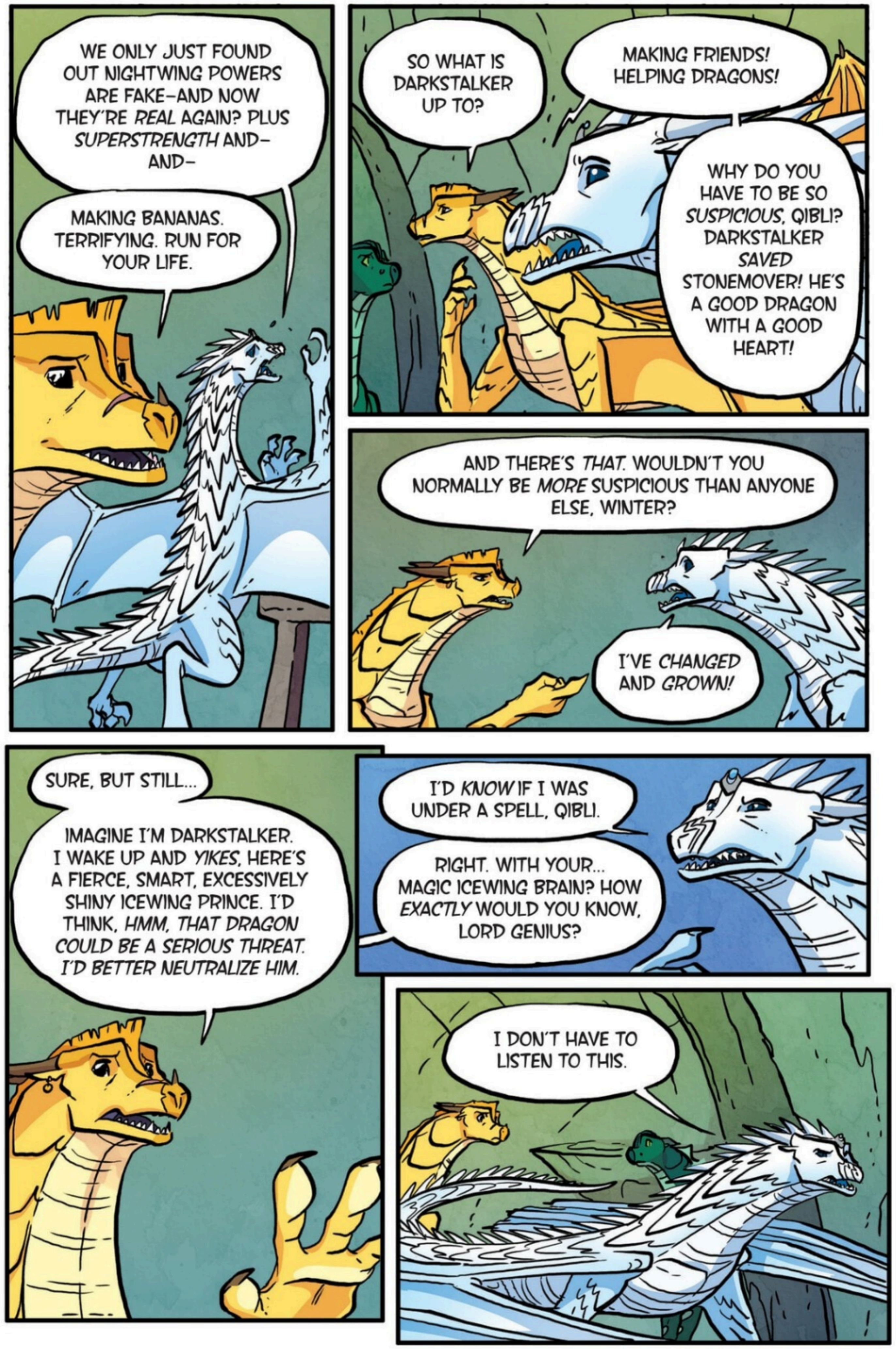

JUST KIDDING. SUNNY, I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS FOR YOU.
HOW, EXACTLY?
TAP
SNAP!
THERE. HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE NOW.

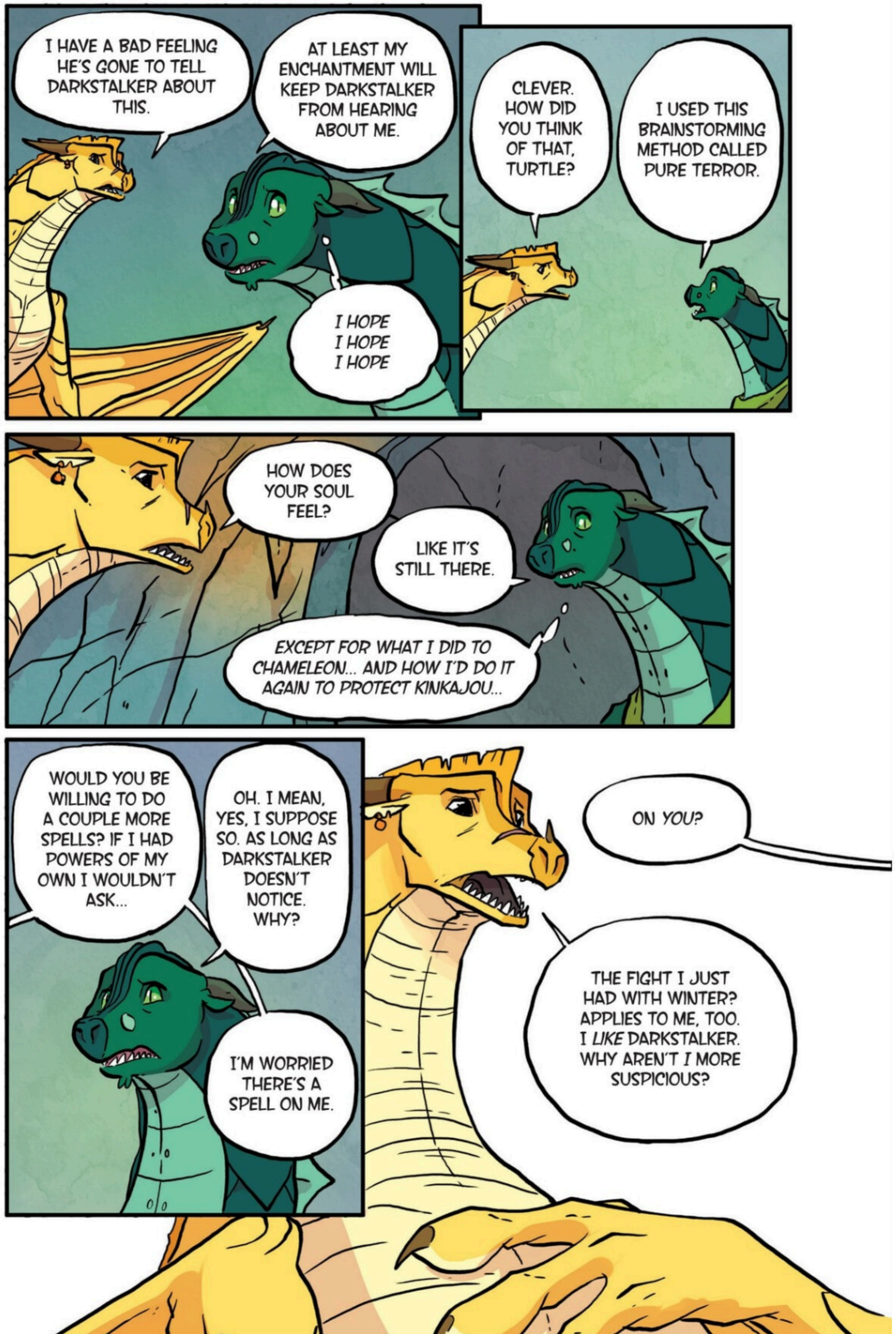

I THINK WE'RE ALL DONE HERE. LET'S GO.
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME PLEASE DON'T
THAT WAS *AWESOME!* LET'S SOLVE MORE MYSTERIES! CATCH MORE BAD GUYS!
NO, YOU TWO AND THE OTHER NIGHTWING STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE AN EARLY NIGHT. WE'RE FLYING TO THE RAINFOREST TOMORROW.
MOON! COME FLYING WITH ME!
UM... QIBLI AND I TOLD STARFLIGHT WE'D HELP FIND MORE SCROLLS FOR YOU. MAYBE LATER?
OF COURSE. NO PROBLEM.
I'LL GO FLYING! I'M *WAY* MORE INTERESTING THAN MOON AND I'M NOT TIRED.
YOU WILL BE TOMORROW. THANK YOU, PRINCESS, BUT I'LL BE FINE ALONE TONIGHT.

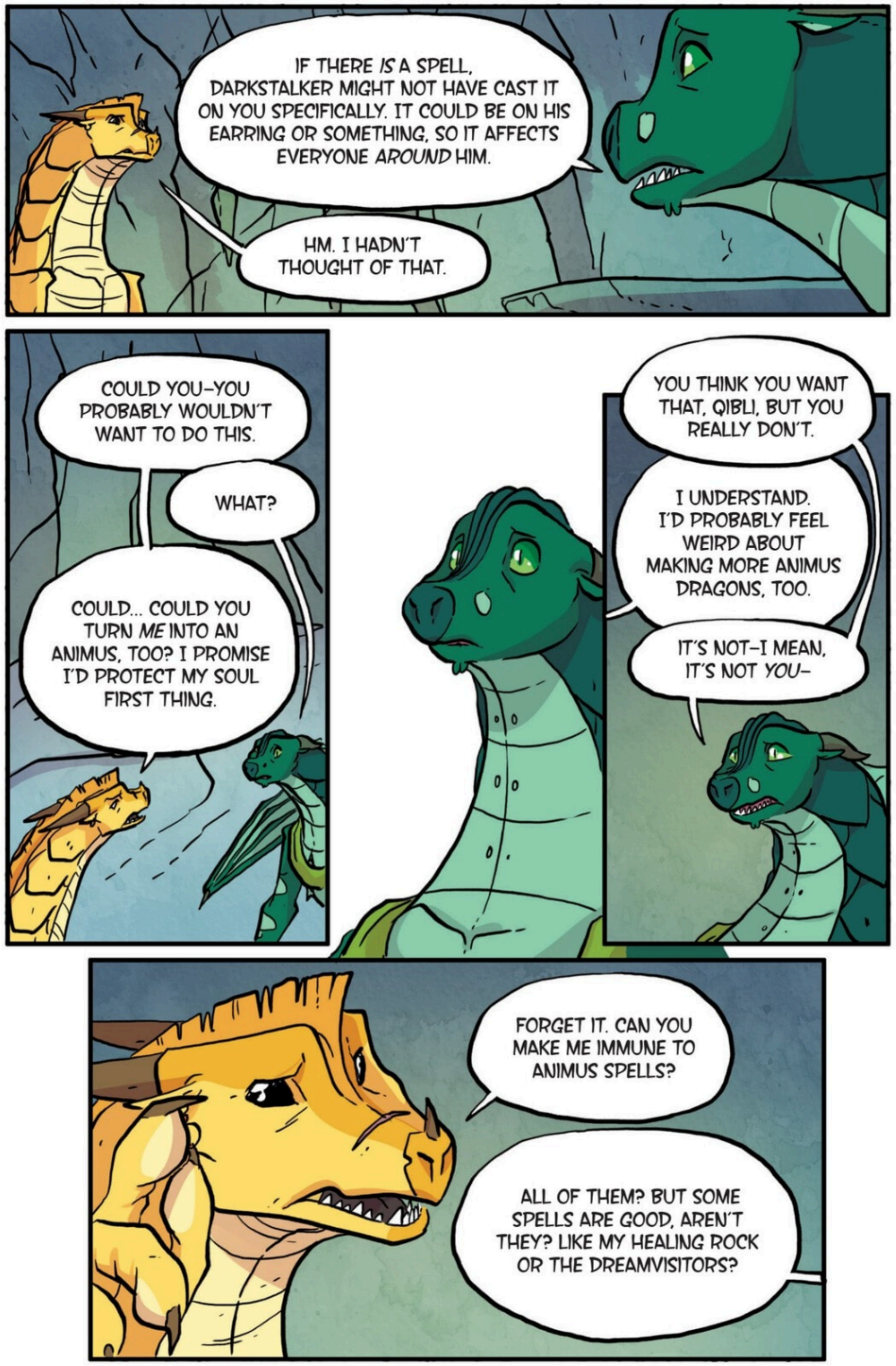

DARKSTALKER LOOKS SO... ***LONELY.***
LIKE THE WOUNDED SEAWING SOLDIERS BACK HOME. THE ONES WHO CAN'T SWIM ANYMORE, WHO LOST A TAIL OR A LIMB OR A WING AND DON'T QUITE KNOW YET HOW TO GO ON LIVING WITHOUT THEM.
SHOULD I FOLLOW HIM?
I CAN'T WATCH DARKSTALKER EVERY SECOND FOREVER. I HAVEN'T SLEPT ALL NIGHT, AND I SPENT YESTERDAY FLYING ACROSS THE CONTINENT. I HAVE TO SLEEP ***SOMETIME.***

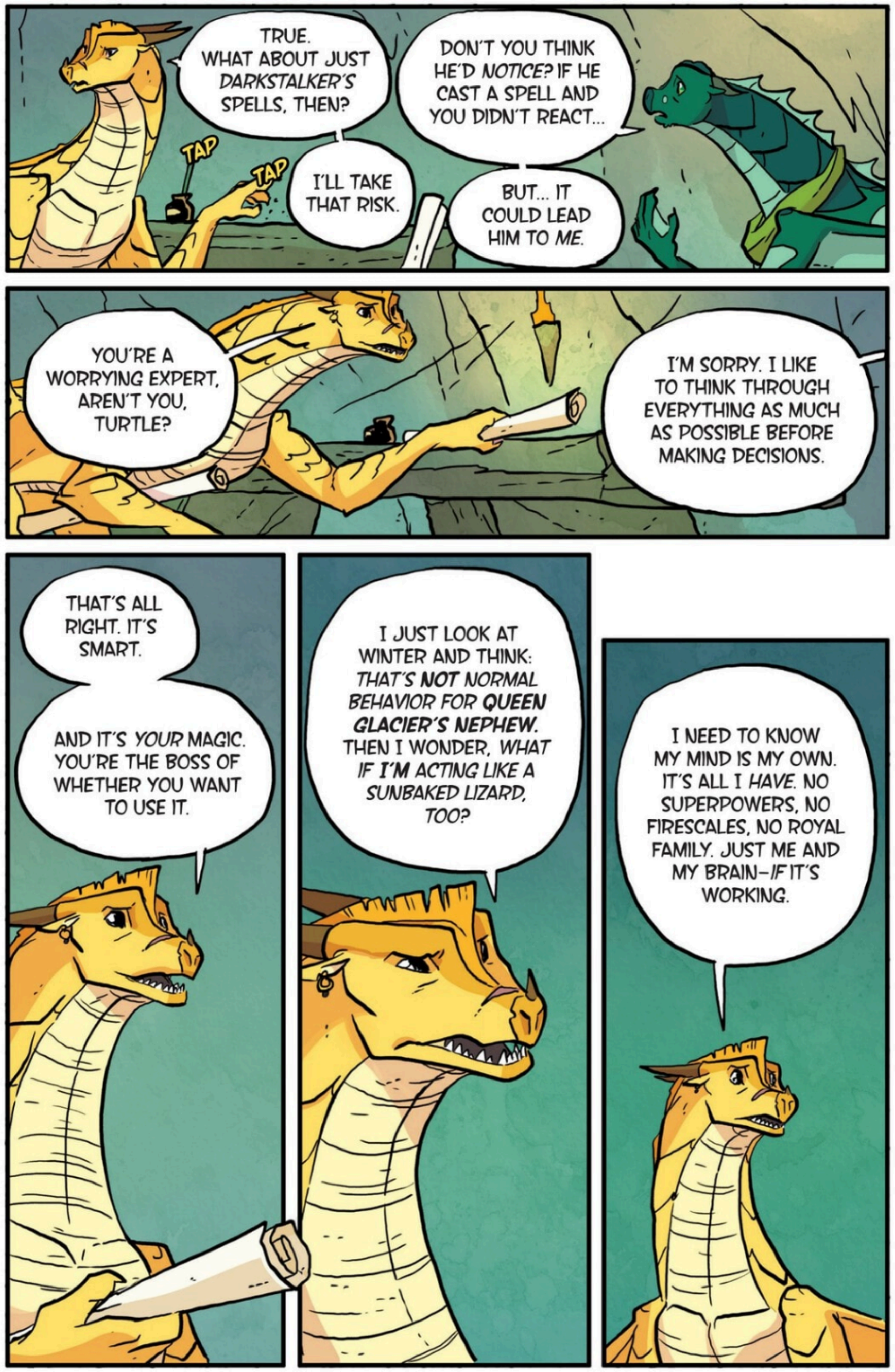

TURTLE DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO HIS OWN SLEEPING CAVE. HE'D HAD TROUBLE SLEEPING THERE SINCE UMBER RAN AWAY. THE CAVE FELT EMPTY, BARE AND SCRAPED OF LIFE.
QUEEN CORAL'S SONS WERE ALMOST ALWAYS TOGETHER. THEY SHARED ROOMS AND CLASSES AND PREY. THEY FILLED THE PALACES WITH THE SOUNDS OF WRESTLING MATCHES AND GAMES.
WHEN ONE DID SOMETHING WRONG, THE PUNISHMENT WAS ALMOST ALWAYS ISOLATION. SOMETIMES IT WAS IMPOSED FROM ABOVE. SOMETIMES THE BROTHERS BANDED TOGETHER TO EXILE ONE OF THEIR OWN.
AFTER TURTLE FAILED HIS FATHER, HIS BROTHERS CARRIED OUT HIS PUNISHMENT THEMSELVES. NOBODY SPOKE TO HIM. HE WAS LEFT TO SLEEP IN AN EMPTY ROOM. HIS BROTHERS BEHAVED AS IF HE DIDN'T EXIST.
TURTLE FELT HIS SENSE OF DRAGONHOOD DISSOLVING INTO THE OCEAN LIKE A MIST OF INK. IF NO ONE SAW YOU, WERE YOU REAL? IF NO ONE SPOKE TO YOU, HOW LONG COULD YOU GO ON EXISTING BEFORE DISAPPEARING COMPLETELY?
WHICH WAS WHY HE'D FINALLY USED HIS MAGIC ON THEM.
HE CRACKED AN ENCHANTED SEAGULL EGG INTO THE FISH STEW ONE NIGHT, AND SUDDENLY FORGIVENESS WAS HIS.
BUT IT LEFT HIM WITH AN UNSHAKABLE SENSE OF DOUBT. WOULD THEY EVER HAVE FORGIVEN HIM ON THEIR OWN?
HE KNEW HE HADN'T EARNED THEIR BEGUILED FRIENDLINESS, THE FALSE TIDE OF MERCY THAT WASHED AWAY HIS SINS.
EMPTY CAVES REMINDED HIM OF THAT FEELING— FIRST THE LONELINESS, THEN THE GUILT. SO, INSTEAD OF GOING TO HIS OWN CAVE, HE SLIPPED QUIETLY DOWN TO WINTER AND QIBLI'S ROOM.

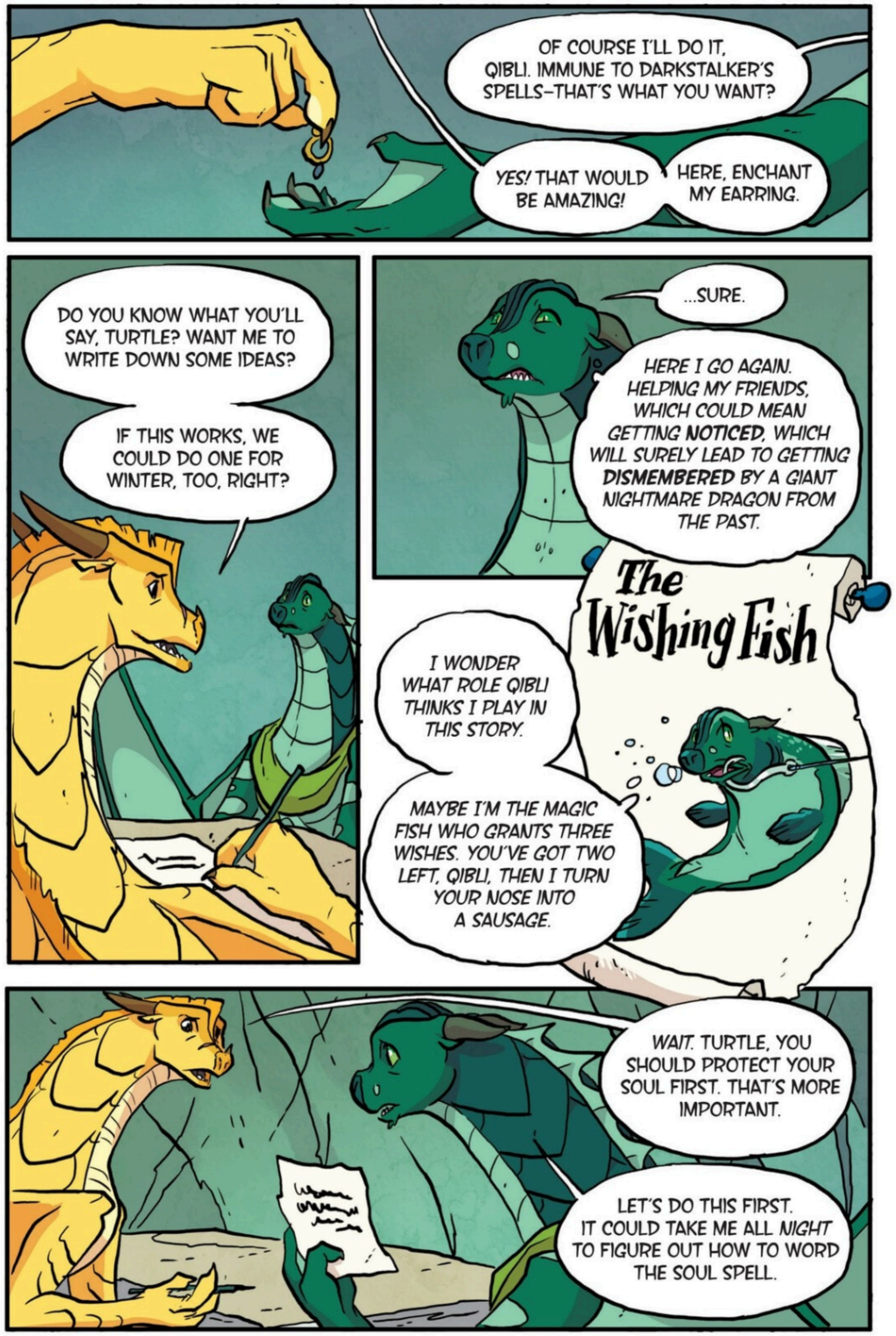

WINTER, QIBLI— CAN I SLEEP HERE TONIGHT?
OF COURSE, TURTLE!
OH, HELLO, YES, THERE *IS* ANOTHER DRAGON IN HERE. I WONDER IF *HE* HAS AN OPINION ABOUT EXTRA *SNORING* IN HIS CAVE.
WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN?
NOT MUCH. DARKSTALKER JUST...
THINGS DARKSTALKER DID TODAY:
☑ PROTECTED HIS AND ANEMONE'S SOULS
☑ GAVE NIGHTWING STUDENTS POWERS
☑ HEALED FLAME'S FACE
☑ SAVED STONEMOVER'S LIFE
☑ FOUND THE THIRD DREAMVISITOR
☑ CHAINED UP FLAME
☐ UP TO WHO KNOWS WHAT
WHOA. THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE NOT MUCH.

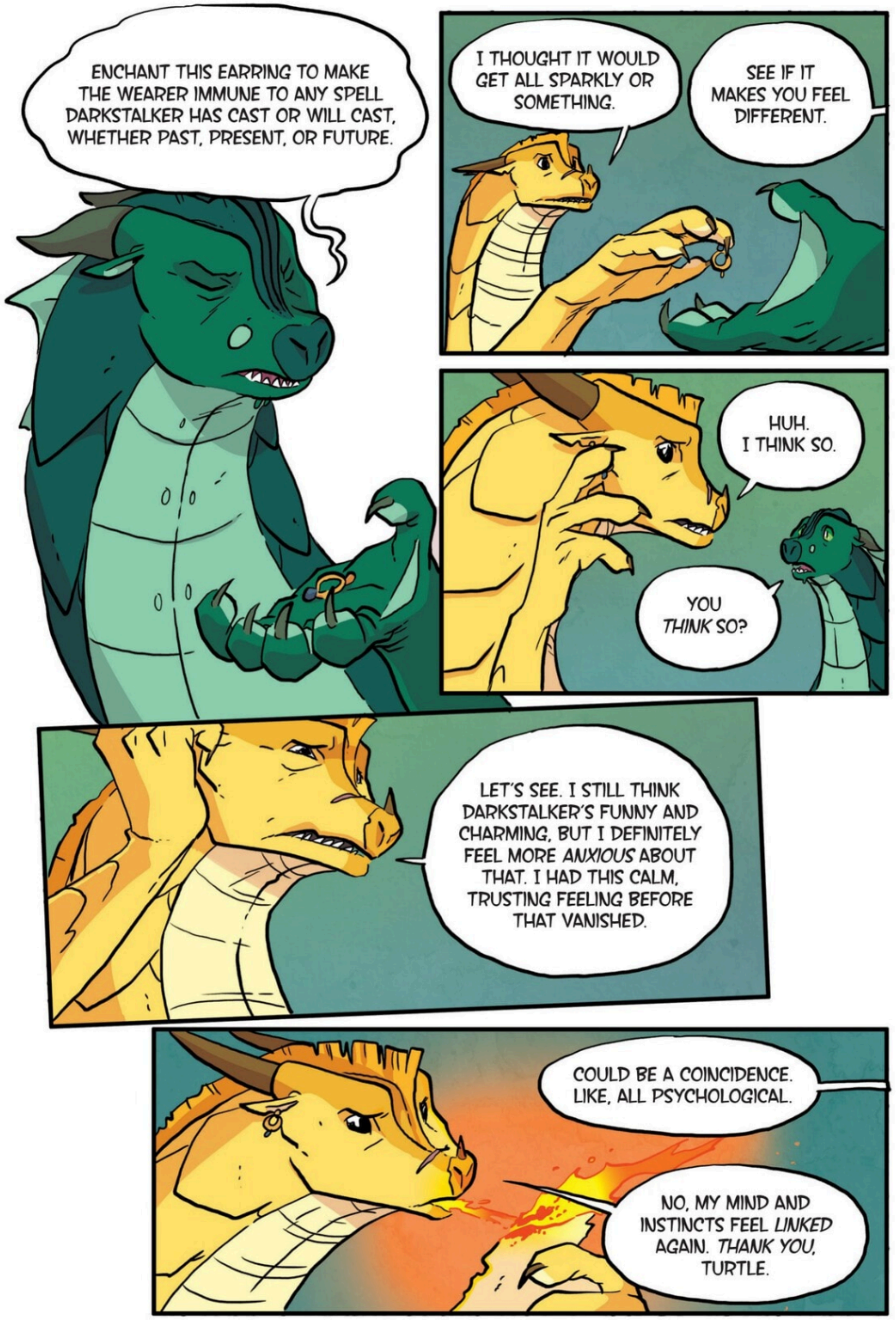

WE ONLY JUST FOUND OUT NIGHTWING POWERS ARE FAKE—AND NOW THEY'RE *REAL* AGAIN? PLUS *SUPERSTRENGTH* AND—AND—
MAKING BANANAS. TERRIFYING. RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.
SO WHAT IS DARKSTALKER UP TO?
MAKING FRIENDS! HELPING DRAGONS!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO *SUSPICIOUS*, QIBLI? DARKSTALKER *SAVED* STONEMOVER! HE'S A GOOD DRAGON WITH A GOOD HEART!
AND THERE'S *THAT.* WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY BE *MORE* SUSPICIOUS THAN ANYONE ELSE, WINTER?
I'VE *CHANGED* AND *GROWN!*
SURE, BUT STILL...
IMAGINE I'M DARKSTALKER. I WAKE UP AND *YIKES*, HERE'S A FIERCE, SMART, EXCESSIVELY SHINY ICEWING PRINCE. I'D THINK, *HMM, THAT DRAGON COULD BE A SERIOUS THREAT. I'D BETTER NEUTRALIZE HIM.*
I'D *KNOW* IF I WAS UNDER A SPELL, QIBLI.
RIGHT. WITH YOUR... MAGIC ICEWING BRAIN? HOW *EXACTLY* WOULD YOU KNOW, LORD GENIUS?
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS.

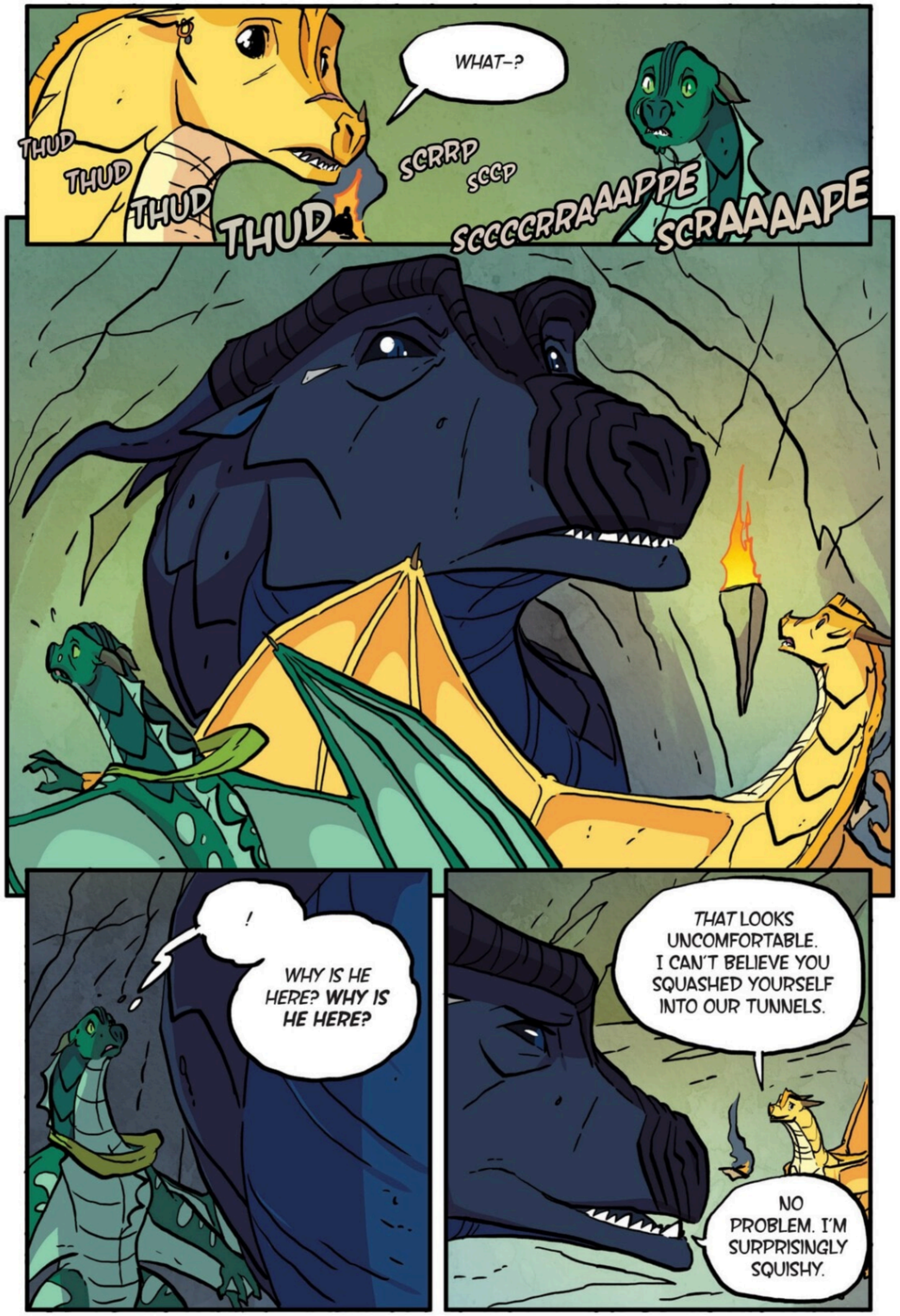

I HAVE A BAD FEELING HE'S GONE TO TELL DARKSTALKER ABOUT THIS.
AT LEAST MY ENCHANTMENT WILL KEEP DARKSTALKER FROM HEARING ABOUT ME.
I HOPE I HOPE I HOPE
CLEVER. HOW DID YOU THINK OF THAT, TURTLE?
I USED THIS BRAINSTORMING METHOD CALLED PURE TERROR.
HOW DOES YOUR SOUL FEEL?
LIKE IT'S STILL THERE.
EXCEPT FOR WHAT I DID TO CHAMELEON... AND HOW I'D DO IT AGAIN TO PROTECT KINKAJOU...
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO A COUPLE MORE SPELLS? IF I HAD POWERS OF MY OWN I WOULDN'T ASK...
OH. I MEAN, YES, I SUPPOSE SO. AS LONG AS DARKSTALKER DOESN'T NOTICE. WHY?
I'M WORRIED THERE'S A SPELL ON ME.
ON *YOU*?
THE FIGHT I JUST HAD WITH WINTER? APPLIES TO ME, TOO. I *LIKE* DARKSTALKER. WHY AREN'T *I* MORE SUSPICIOUS?

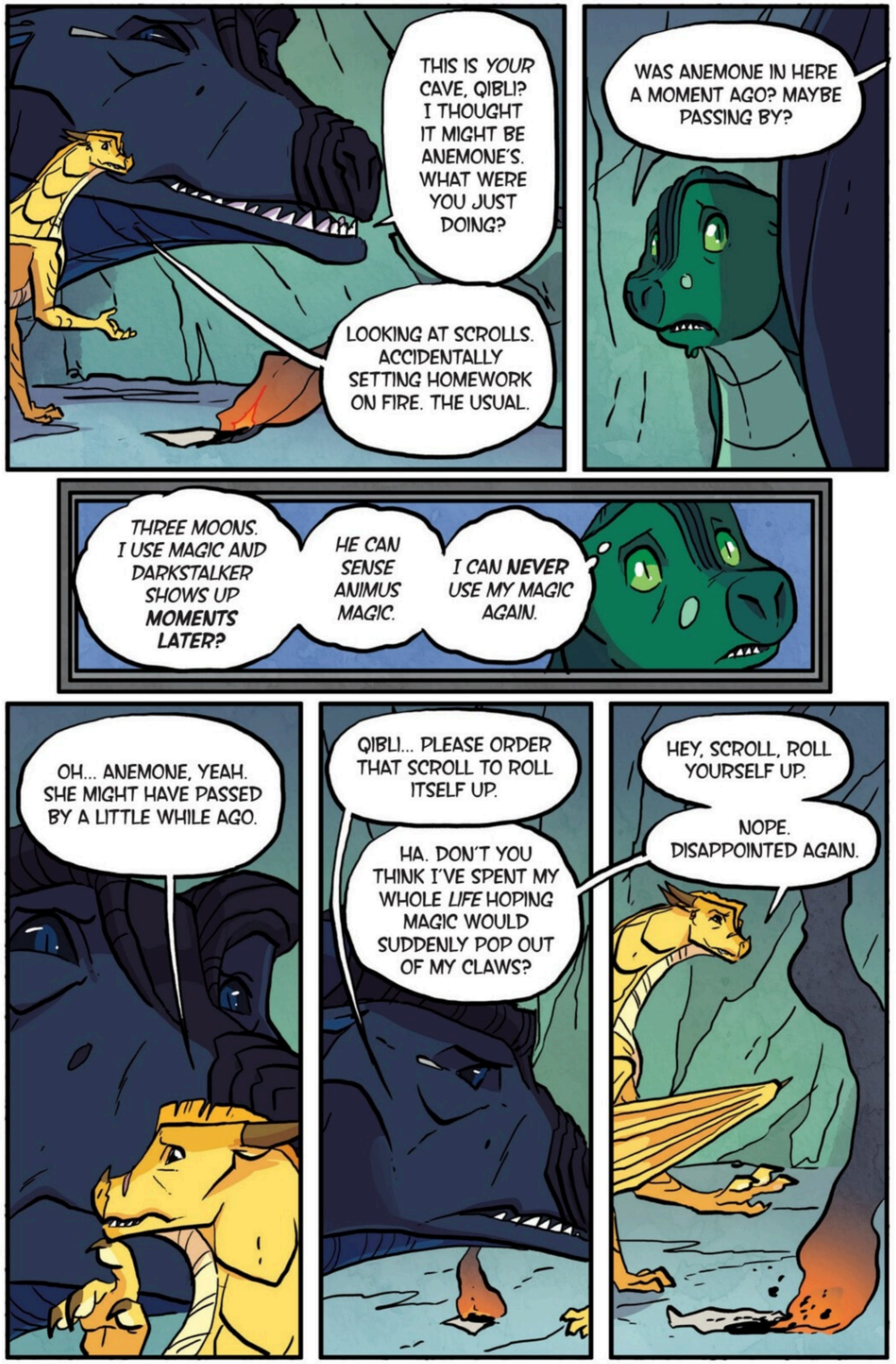

IF THERE *IS* A SPELL, DARKSTALKER MIGHT NOT HAVE CAST IT ON YOU SPECIFICALLY. IT COULD BE ON HIS EARRING OR SOMETHING, SO IT AFFECTS EVERYONE *AROUND* HIM.
HM. I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.
COULD YOU—YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T WANT TO DO THIS.
WHAT?
COULD... COULD YOU TURN *ME* INTO AN ANIMUS, TOO? I PROMISE I'D PROTECT MY SOUL FIRST THING.
YOU THINK YOU WANT THAT, QIBLI, BUT YOU REALLY DON'T.
I UNDERSTAND. I'D PROBABLY FEEL WEIRD ABOUT MAKING MORE ANIMUS DRAGONS, TOO.
IT'S NOT—I MEAN, IT'S NOT *YOU*—
FORGET IT. CAN YOU MAKE ME IMMUNE TO ANIMUS SPELLS?
ALL OF THEM? BUT SOME SPELLS ARE GOOD, AREN'T THEY? LIKE MY HEALING ROCK OR THE DREAMVISITORS?

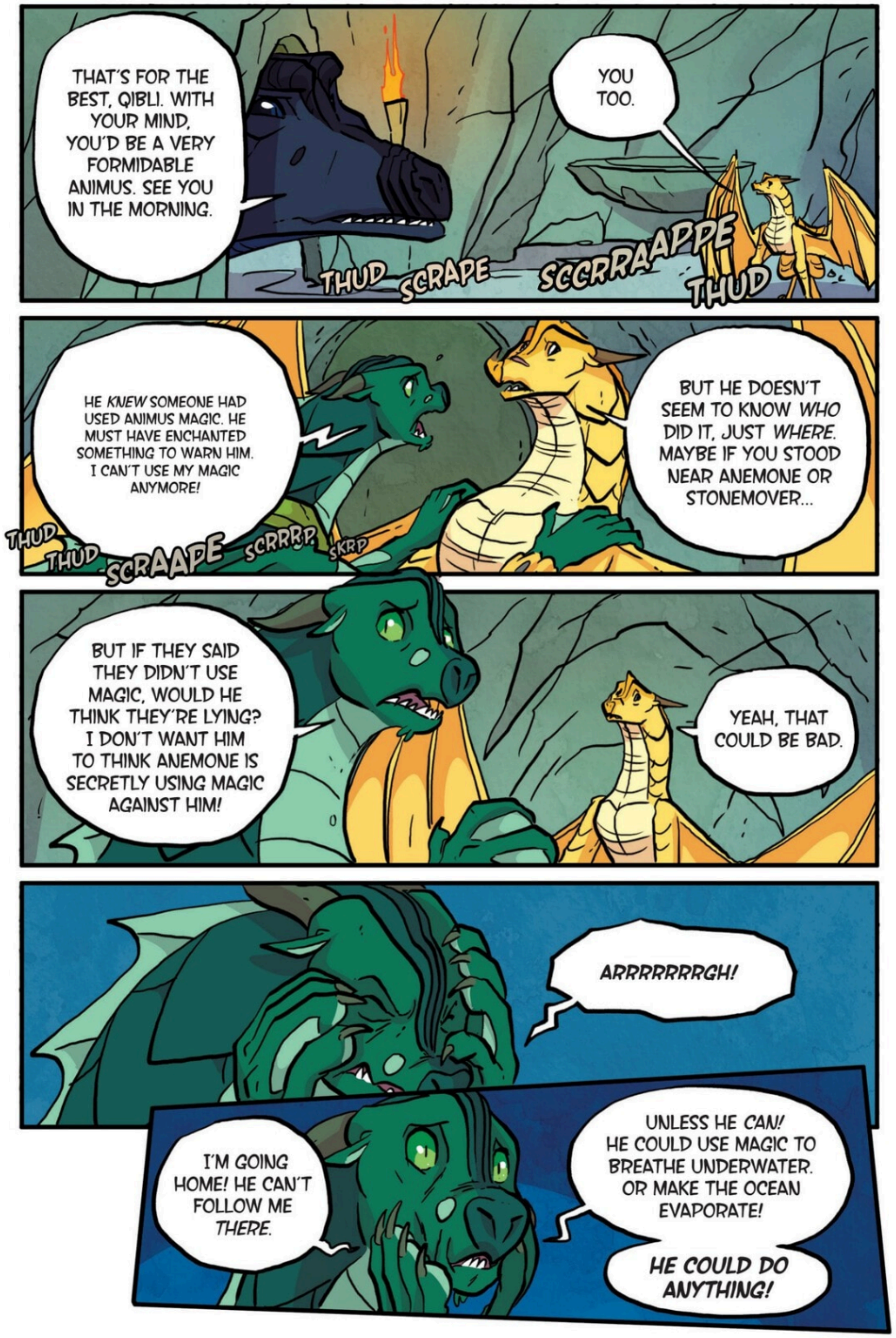

TRUE. WHAT ABOUT JUST *DARKSTALKER'S* SPELLS, THEN?
DON'T YOU THINK HE'D *NOTICE?* IF HE CAST A SPELL AND YOU DIDN'T REACT...
TAP
TAP
I'LL TAKE THAT RISK.
BUT... IT COULD LEAD HIM TO *ME.*
YOU'RE A WORRYING EXPERT, AREN'T YOU, TURTLE?
I'M SORRY. I LIKE TO THINK THROUGH EVERYTHING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S SMART.
AND IT'S *YOUR* MAGIC. YOU'RE THE BOSS OF WHETHER YOU WANT TO USE IT.
I JUST LOOK AT WINTER AND THINK: *THAT'S* ***NOT*** *NORMAL BEHAVIOR FOR* ***QUEEN GLACIER'S NEPHEW.*** THEN I WONDER, *WHAT IF* ***I'M*** *ACTING LIKE A SUNBAKED LIZARD, TOO?*
I NEED TO KNOW MY MIND IS MY OWN. IT'S ALL I *HAVE.* NO SUPERPOWERS, NO FIRESCALES, NO ROYAL FAMILY. JUST ME AND MY BRAIN—*IF* IT'S WORKING.

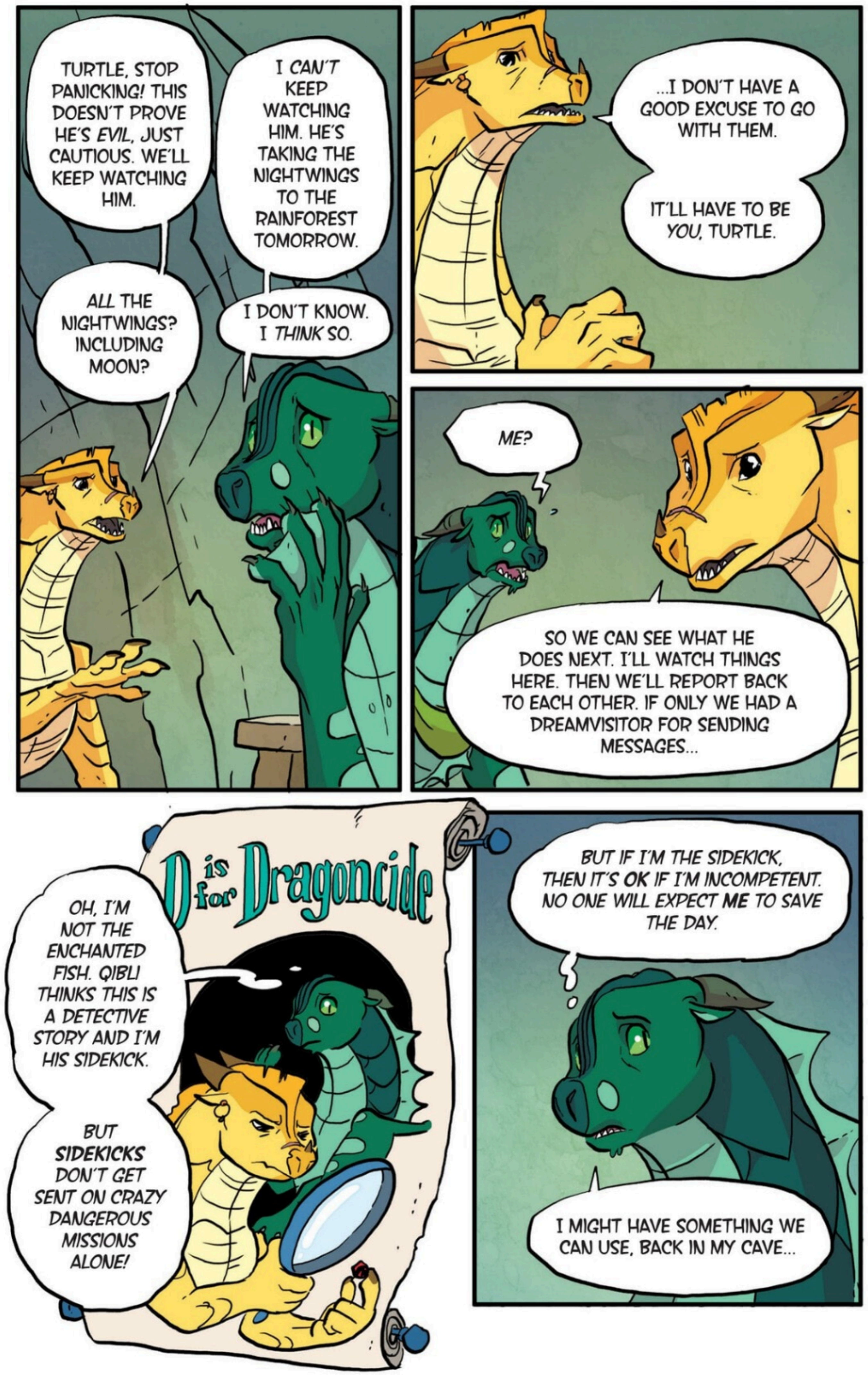

OF COURSE I'LL DO IT, QIBLI. IMMUNE TO DARKSTALKER'S SPELLS—THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?
YES! THAT WOULD BE AMAZING!
HERE, ENCHANT MY EARRING.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'LL SAY, TURTLE? WANT ME TO WRITE DOWN SOME IDEAS?
IF THIS WORKS, WE COULD DO ONE FOR WINTER, TOO, RIGHT?
...SURE.
HERE I GO AGAIN. HELPING MY FRIENDS, WHICH COULD MEAN GETTING ***NOTICED,*** *WHICH WILL SURELY LEAD TO GETTING* ***DISMEMBERED*** *BY A GIANT NIGHTMARE DRAGON FROM THE PAST.*
The Wishing Fish
I WONDER WHAT ROLE QIBLI THINKS I PLAY IN THIS STORY.
MAYBE I'M THE MAGIC FISH WHO GRANTS THREE WISHES. YOU'VE GOT TWO LEFT, QIBLI, THEN I TURN YOUR NOSE INTO A SAUSAGE.
WAIT. TURTLE, YOU SHOULD PROTECT YOUR SOUL FIRST. THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT.
LET'S DO THIS FIRST. IT COULD TAKE ME ALL *NIGHT* TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO WORD THE SOUL SPELL.

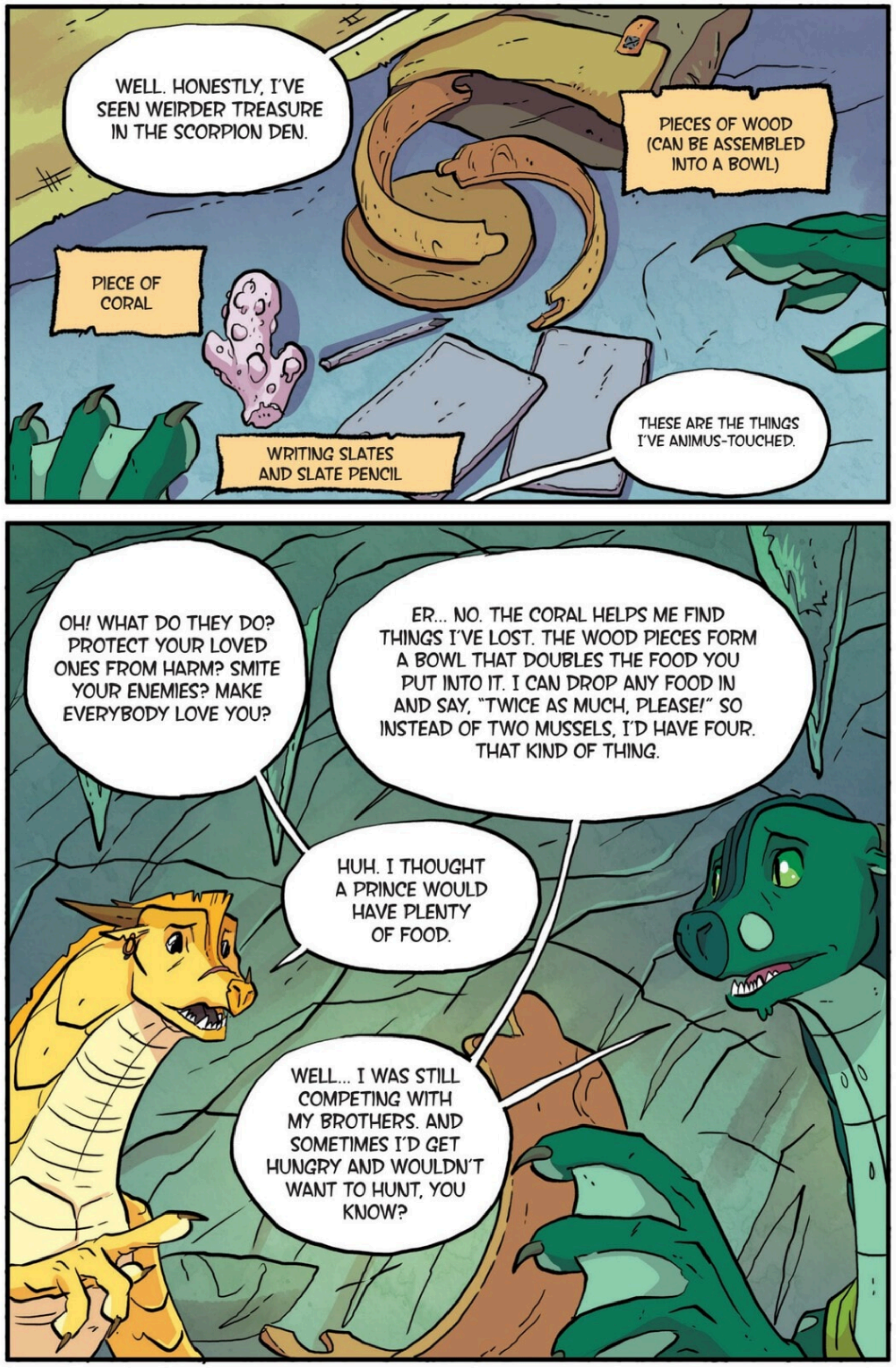

ENCHANT THIS EARRING TO MAKE THE WEARER IMMUNE TO ANY SPELL DARKSTALKER HAS CAST OR WILL CAST, WHETHER PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD GET ALL SPARKLY OR SOMETHING.
SEE IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL DIFFERENT.
HUH. I THINK SO.
YOU *THINK* SO?
LET'S SEE. I STILL THINK DARKSTALKER'S FUNNY AND CHARMING, BUT I DEFINITELY FEEL MORE *ANXIOUS* ABOUT THAT. I HAD THIS CALM, TRUSTING FEELING BEFORE THAT VANISHED.
COULD BE A COINCIDENCE. LIKE, ALL PSYCHOLOGICAL.
NO, MY MIND AND INSTINCTS FEEL *LINKED* AGAIN. *THANK YOU,* TURTLE.

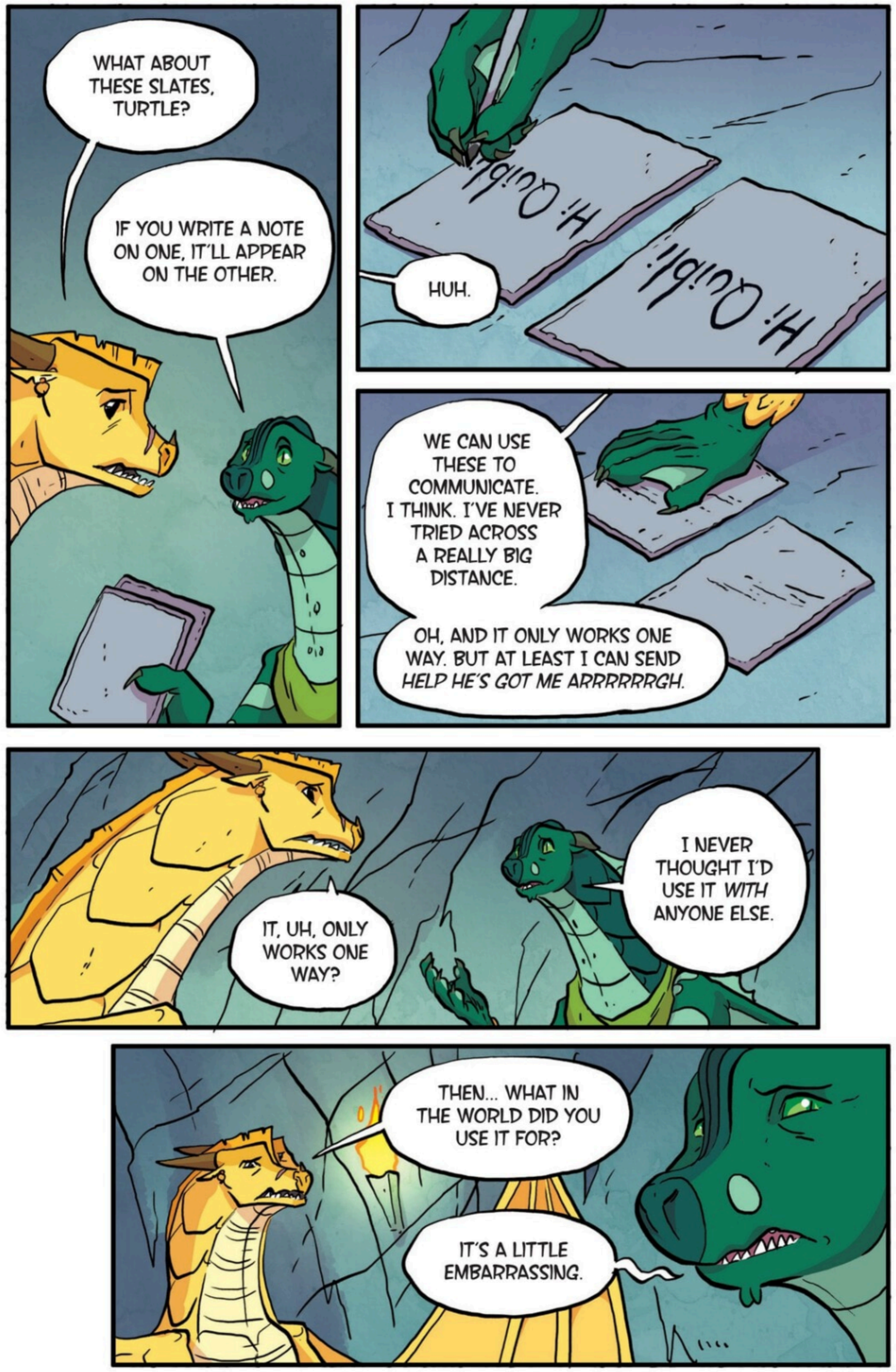

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
WHAT–?
SCRRP
SCCP
SCCCCRRAAAPPE
SCRAAAAPE
!
WHY IS HE HERE? ***WHY IS HE HERE?***
THAT LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SQUASHED YOURSELF INTO OUR TUNNELS.
NO PROBLEM. I'M SURPRISINGLY SQUISHY.

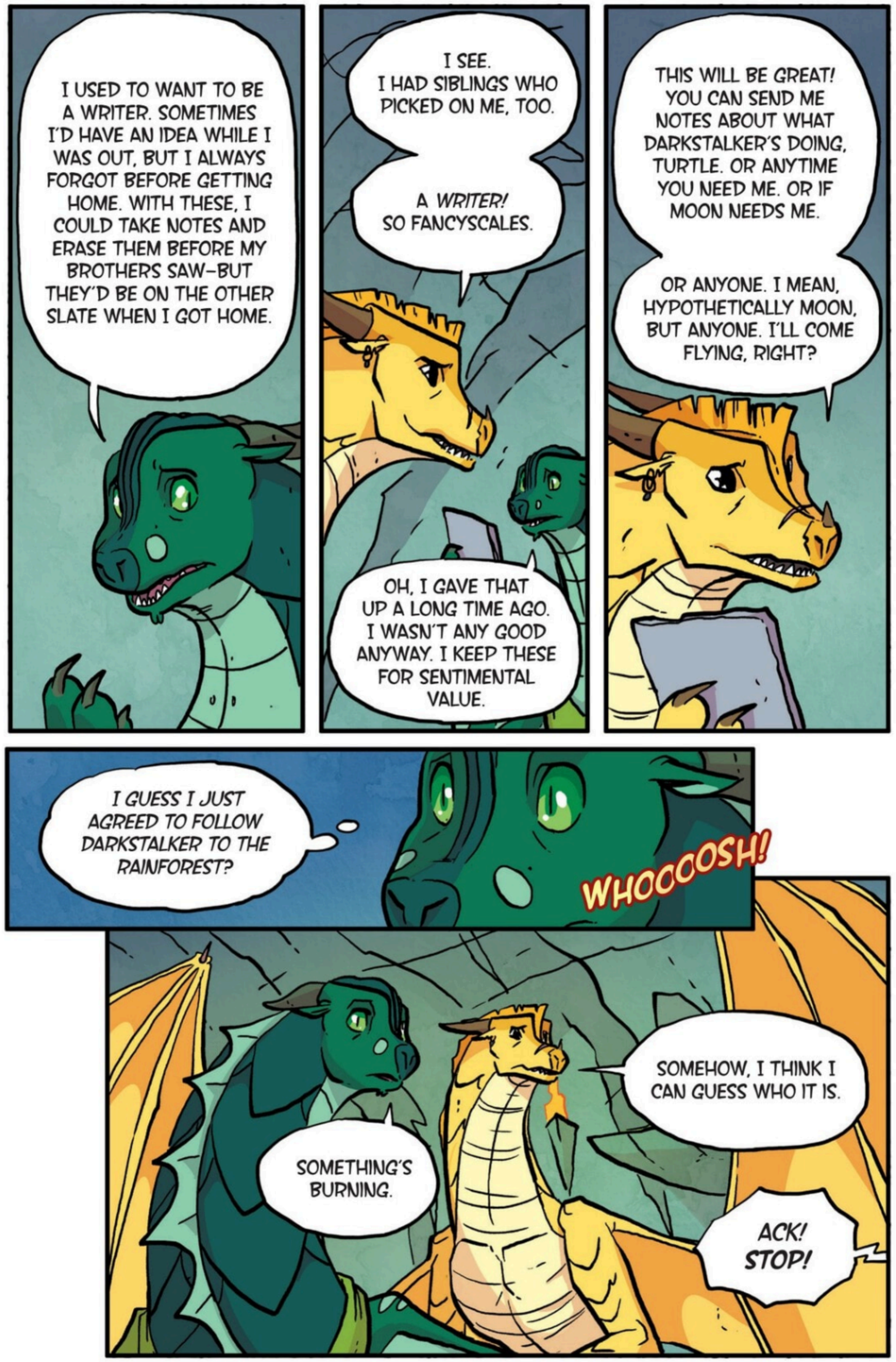

THIS IS *YOUR* CAVE, QIBLI? I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ANEMONE'S. WHAT WERE YOU JUST DOING?
LOOKING AT SCROLLS. ACCIDENTALLY SETTING HOMEWORK ON FIRE. THE USUAL.
WAS ANEMONE IN HERE A MOMENT AGO? MAYBE PASSING BY?
*THREE MOONS. I USE MAGIC AND DARKSTALKER SHOWS UP **MOMENTS LATER?***
HE CAN SENSE ANIMUS MAGIC.
*I CAN **NEVER** USE MY MAGIC AGAIN.*
OH... ANEMONE, YEAH. SHE MIGHT HAVE PASSED BY A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
QIBLI... PLEASE ORDER THAT SCROLL TO ROLL ITSELF UP.
HA. DON'T YOU THINK I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE *LIFE* HOPING MAGIC WOULD SUDDENLY POP OUT OF MY CLAWS?
HEY, SCROLL, ROLL YOURSELF UP.
NOPE. DISAPPOINTED AGAIN.

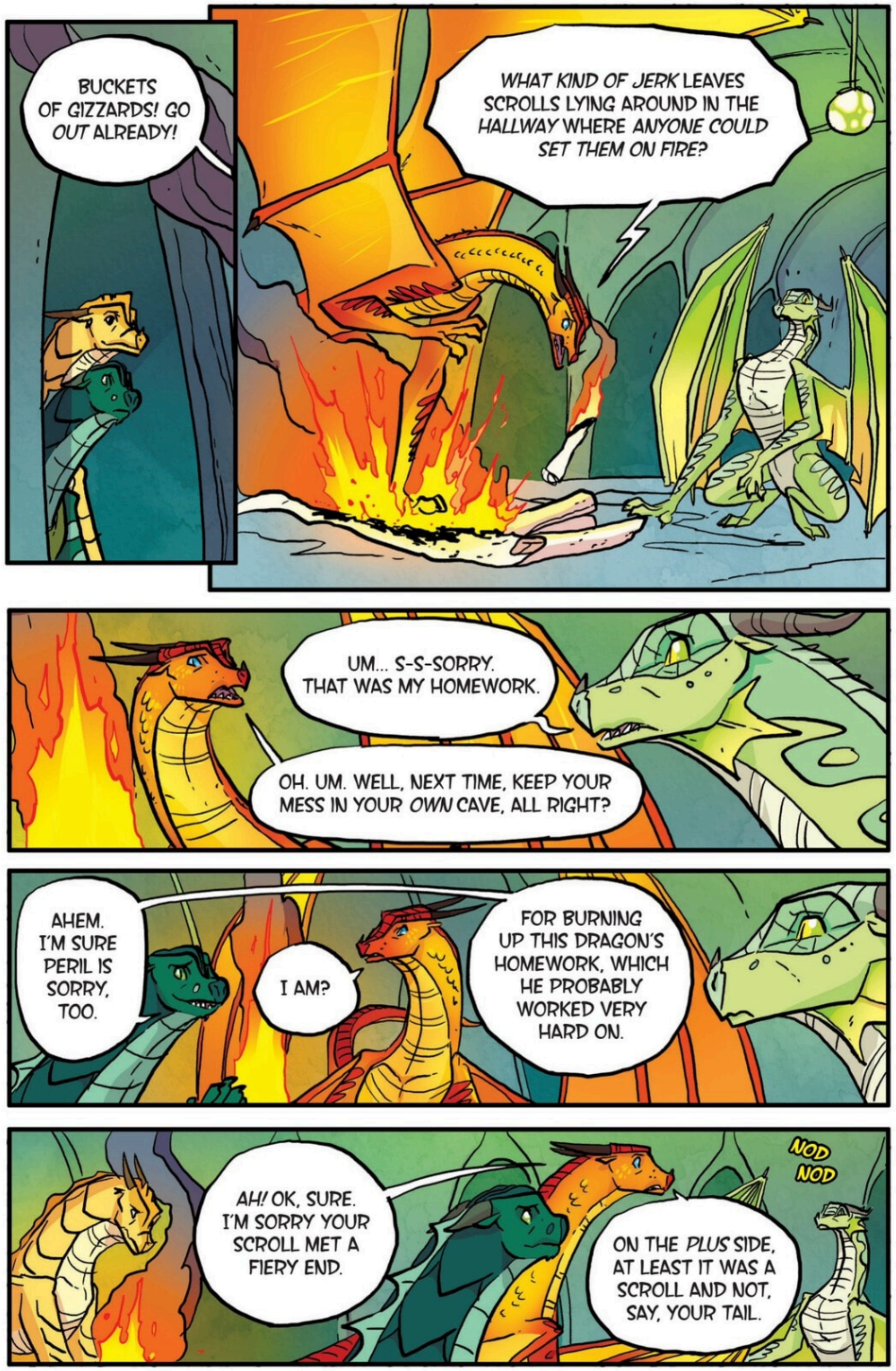

THAT'S FOR THE BEST, QIBLI. WITH YOUR MIND, YOU'D BE A VERY FORMIDABLE ANIMUS. SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
YOU TOO.
THUD
SCRAPE
SCCRRAAPPE
THUD
HE *KNEW* SOMEONE HAD USED ANIMUS MAGIC. HE MUST HAVE ENCHANTED SOMETHING TO WARN HIM. I CAN'T USE MY MAGIC ANYMORE!
BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW *WHO* DID IT, JUST *WHERE*. MAYBE IF YOU STOOD NEAR ANEMONE OR STONEMOVER...
THUD
THUD
SCRAAPE
SCRRRP
SKRP
BUT IF THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T USE MAGIC, WOULD HE THINK THEY'RE LYING? I DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK ANEMONE IS SECRETLY USING MAGIC AGAINST HIM!
YEAH, THAT COULD BE BAD.
ARRRRRRRGH!
I'M GOING HOME! HE CAN'T FOLLOW ME *THERE*.
UNLESS HE *CAN!* HE COULD USE MAGIC TO BREATHE UNDERWATER. OR MAKE THE OCEAN EVAPORATE!
HE COULD DO ANYTHING!

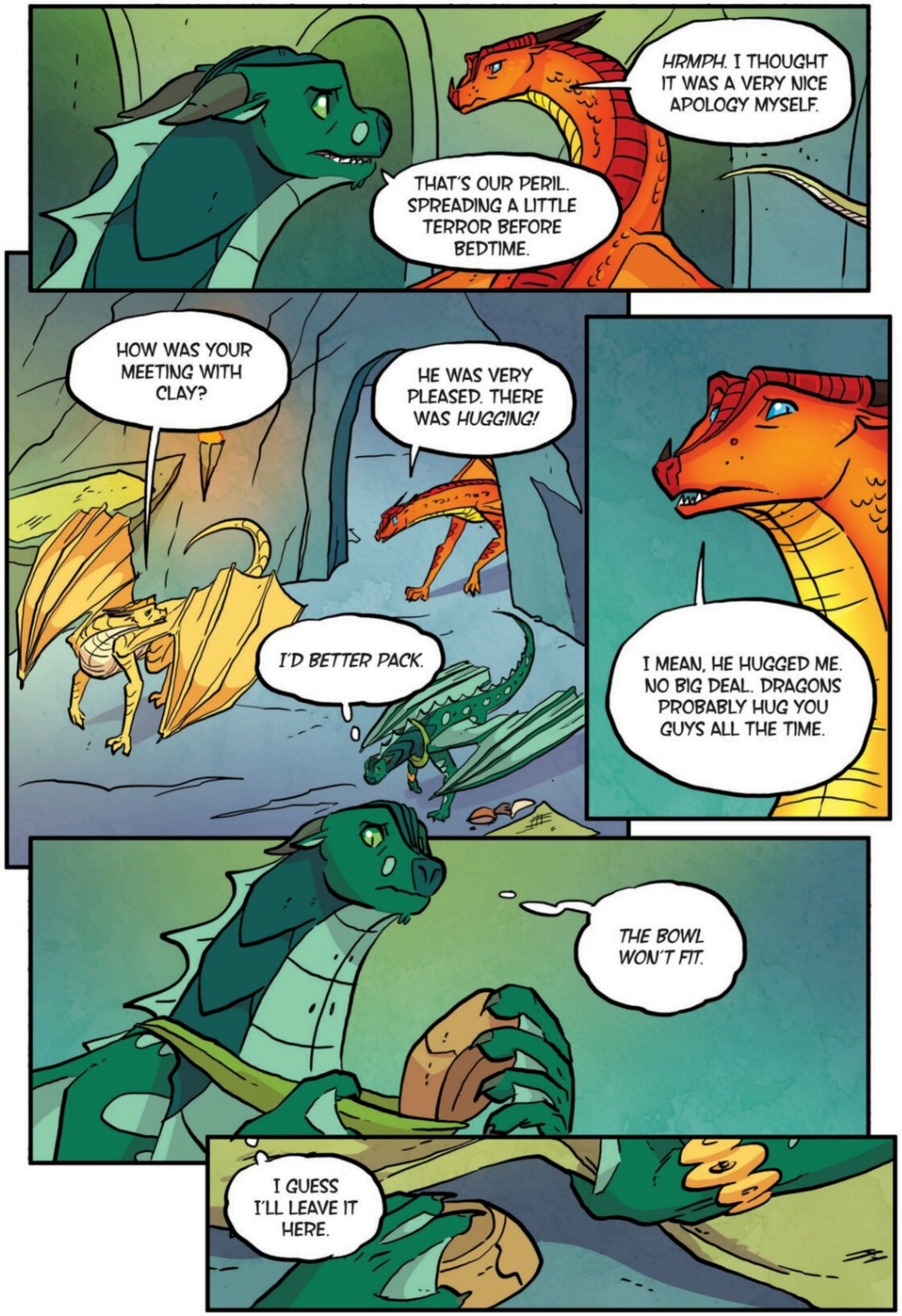

TURTLE, STOP PANICKING! THIS DOESN'T PROVE HE'S *EVIL*, JUST CAUTIOUS. WE'LL KEEP WATCHING HIM.
I *CAN'T* KEEP WATCHING HIM. HE'S TAKING THE NIGHTWINGS TO THE RAINFOREST TOMORROW.
ALL THE NIGHTWINGS? INCLUDING MOON?
I DON'T KNOW. I *THINK* SO.
...I DON'T HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE TO GO WITH THEM.
IT'LL HAVE TO BE *YOU*, TURTLE.
ME?
SO WE CAN SEE WHAT HE DOES NEXT. I'LL WATCH THINGS HERE. THEN WE'LL REPORT BACK TO EACH OTHER. IF ONLY WE HAD A DREAMVISITOR FOR SENDING MESSAGES...
D is for Dragoncide
OH, I'M NOT THE ENCHANTED FISH. QIBLI THINKS THIS IS A DETECTIVE STORY AND I'M HIS SIDEKICK.
BUT ***SIDEKICKS*** *DON'T GET SENT ON CRAZY DANGEROUS MISSIONS ALONE!*
BUT IF I'M THE SIDEKICK, THEN IT'S ***OK*** *IF I'M INCOMPETENT. NO ONE WILL EXPECT* ***ME*** *TO SAVE THE DAY.*
I MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING WE CAN USE, BACK IN MY CAVE...

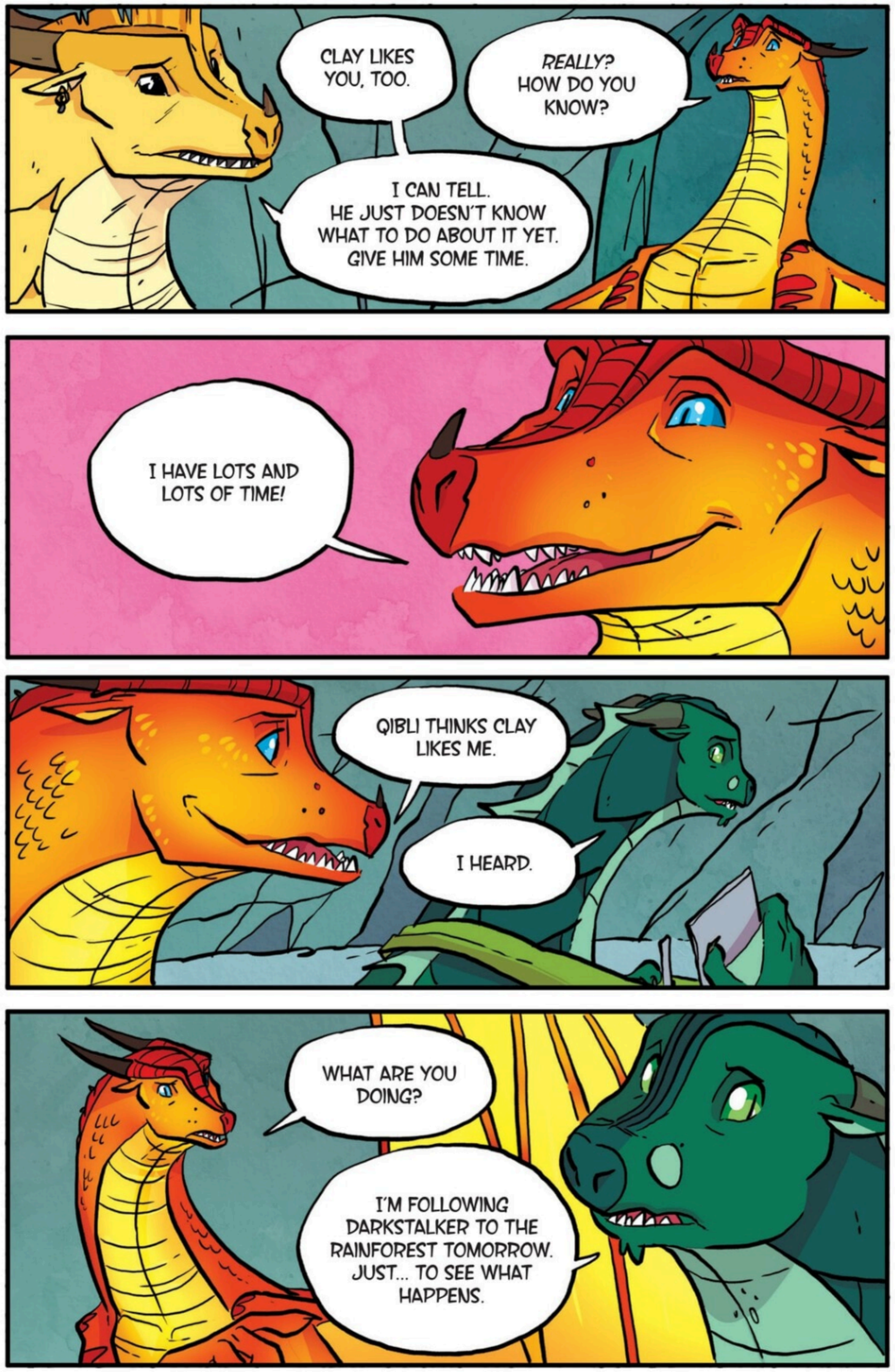

WELL. HONESTLY, I'VE SEEN WEIRDER TREASURE IN THE SCORPION DEN.
PIECES OF WOOD (CAN BE ASSEMBLED INTO A BOWL)
PIECE OF CORAL
WRITING SLATES AND SLATE PENCIL
THESE ARE THE THINGS I'VE ANIMUS-TOUCHED.
OH! WHAT DO THEY DO? PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES FROM HARM? SMITE YOUR ENEMIES? MAKE EVERYBODY LOVE YOU?
ER... NO. THE CORAL HELPS ME FIND THINGS I'VE LOST. THE WOOD PIECES FORM A BOWL THAT DOUBLES THE FOOD YOU PUT INTO IT. I CAN DROP ANY FOOD IN AND SAY, "TWICE AS MUCH, PLEASE!" SO INSTEAD OF TWO MUSSELS, I'D HAVE FOUR. THAT KIND OF THING.
HUH. I THOUGHT A PRINCE WOULD HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD.
WELL... I WAS STILL COMPETING WITH MY BROTHERS. AND SOMETIMES I'D GET HUNGRY AND WOULDN'T WANT TO HUNT, YOU KNOW?

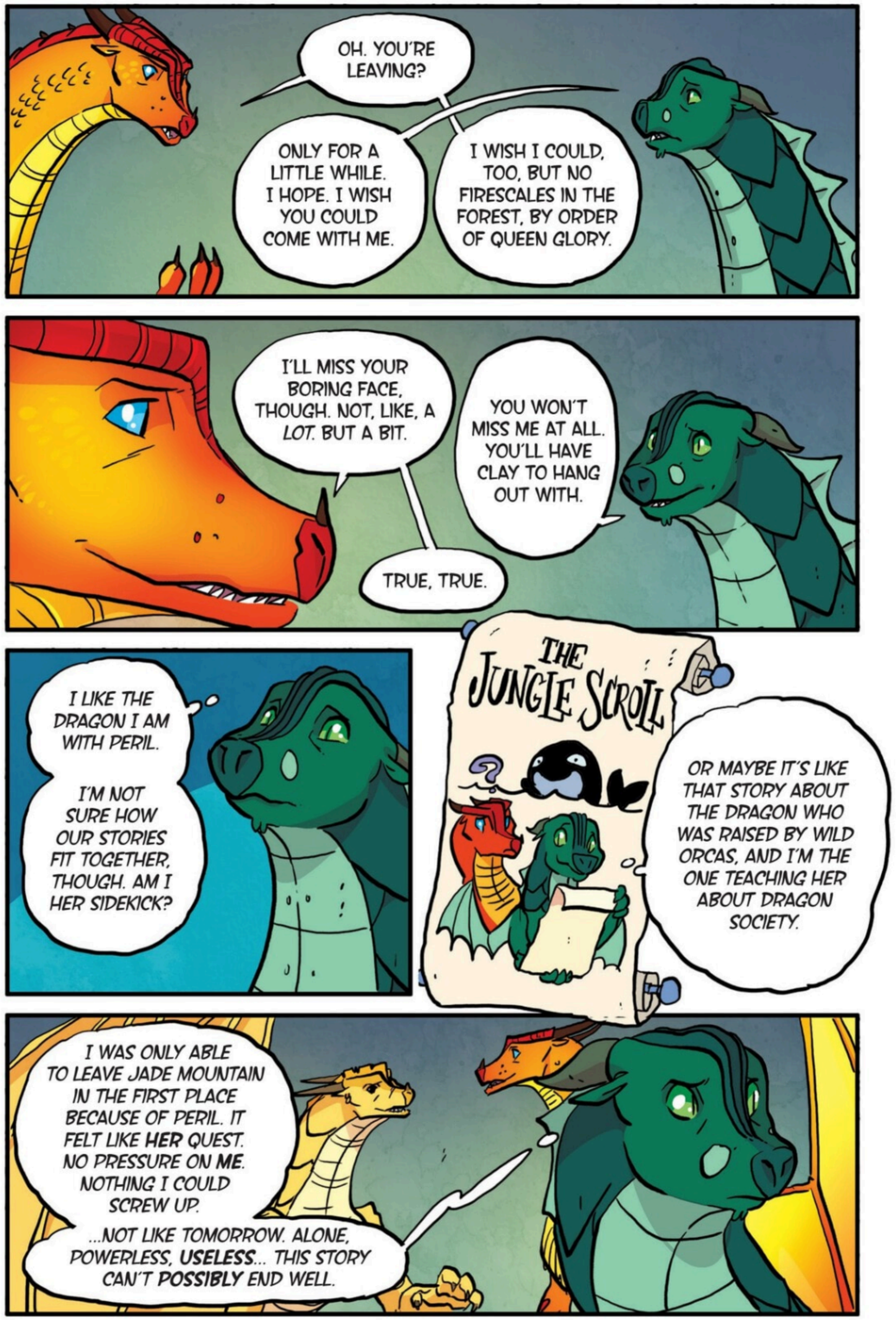

WHAT ABOUT THESE SLATES, TURTLE?
IF YOU WRITE A NOTE ON ONE, IT'LL APPEAR ON THE OTHER.
Hi Quibli!
Hi Quibli!
HUH.
WE CAN USE THESE TO COMMUNICATE. I THINK. I'VE NEVER TRIED ACROSS A REALLY BIG DISTANCE.
OH, AND IT ONLY WORKS ONE WAY. BUT AT LEAST I CAN SEND *HELP HE'S GOT ME ARRRRRRGH.*
IT, UH, ONLY WORKS ONE WAY?
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D USE IT *WITH* ANYONE ELSE.
THEN... WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU USE IT FOR?
IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING.

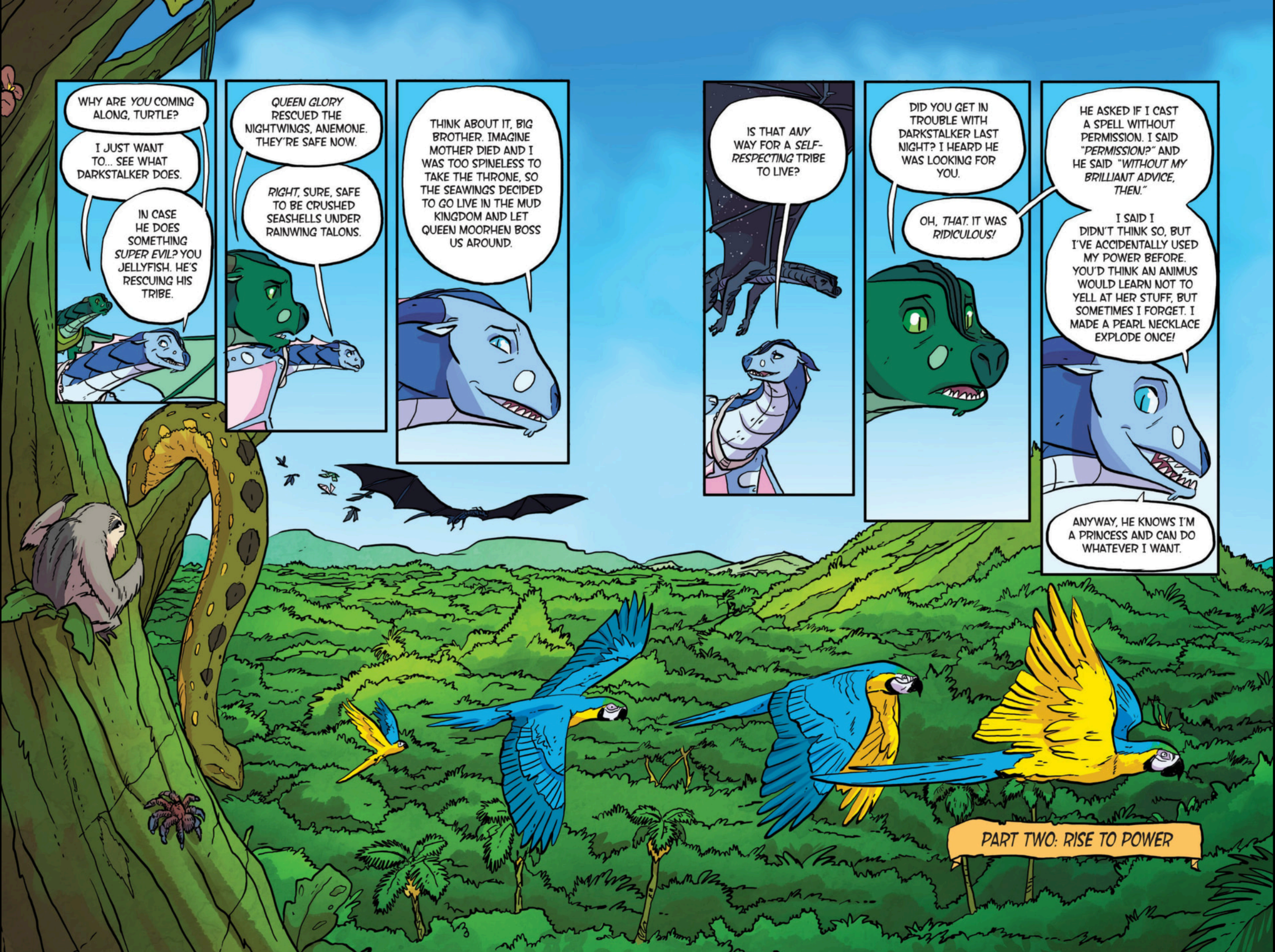

I USED TO WANT TO BE A WRITER. SOMETIMES I'D HAVE AN IDEA WHILE I WAS OUT, BUT I ALWAYS FORGOT BEFORE GETTING HOME. WITH THESE, I COULD TAKE NOTES AND ERASE THEM BEFORE MY BROTHERS SAW—BUT THEY'D BE ON THE OTHER SLATE WHEN I GOT HOME.
I SEE. I HAD SIBLINGS WHO PICKED ON ME, TOO.
A *WRITER!* SO FANCYSCALES.
OH, I GAVE THAT UP A LONG TIME AGO. I WASN'T ANY GOOD ANYWAY. I KEEP THESE FOR SENTIMENTAL VALUE.
THIS WILL BE GREAT! YOU CAN SEND ME NOTES ABOUT WHAT DARKSTALKER'S DOING, TURTLE. OR ANYTIME YOU NEED ME. OR IF MOON NEEDS ME.
OR ANYONE. I MEAN, HYPOTHETICALLY MOON, BUT ANYONE. I'LL COME FLYING, RIGHT?
I GUESS I JUST AGREED TO FOLLOW DARKSTALKER TO THE RAINFOREST?
WHOOOOSH!
SOMETHING'S BURNING.
SOMEHOW, I THINK I CAN GUESS WHO IT IS.
ACK! STOP!

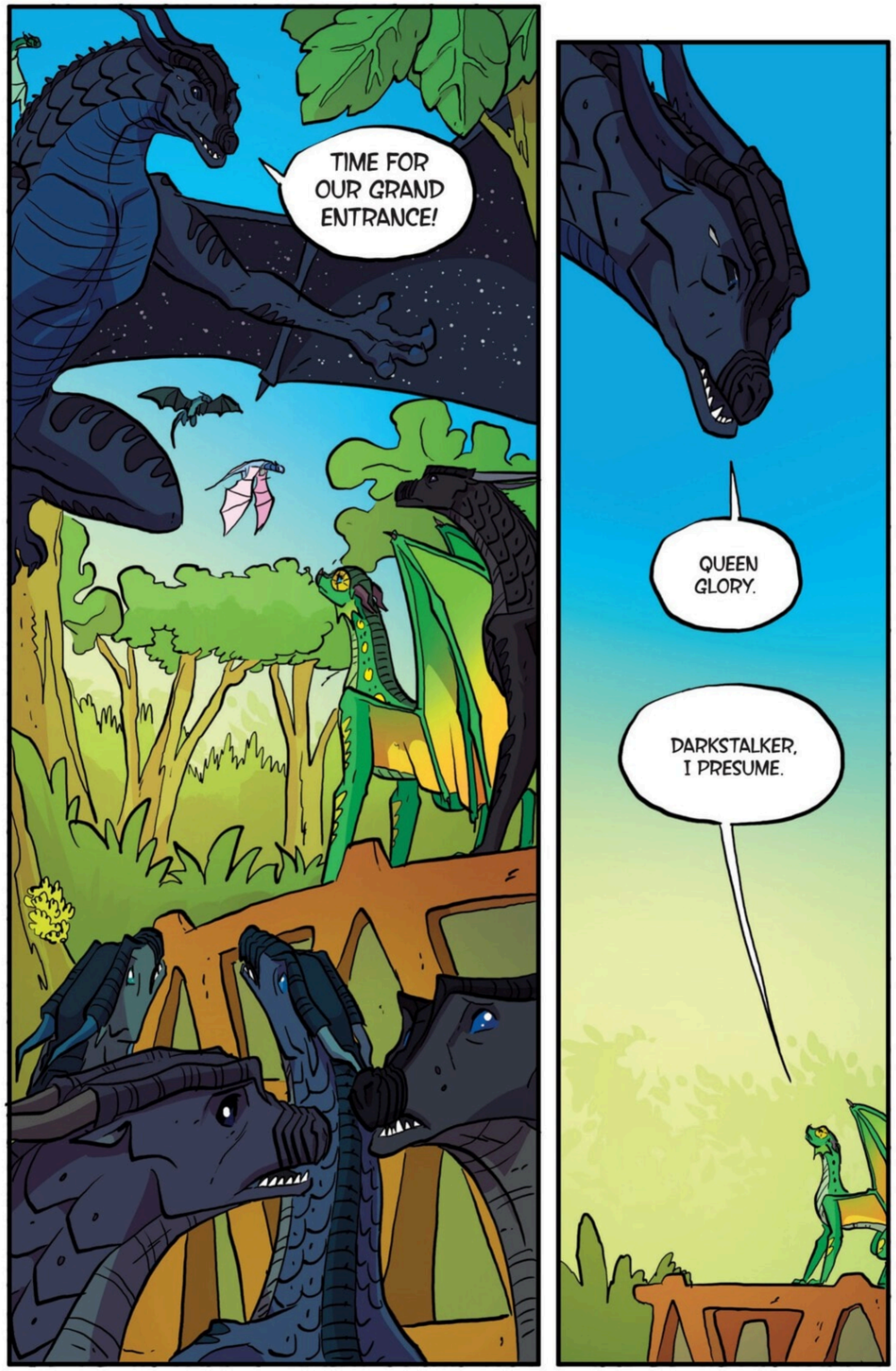

BUCKETS OF GIZZARDS! GO OUT ALREADY!
WHAT KIND OF JERK LEAVES SCROLLS LYING AROUND IN THE HALLWAY WHERE ANYONE COULD SET THEM ON FIRE?
UM... S-S-SORRY. THAT WAS MY HOMEWORK.
OH. UM. WELL, NEXT TIME, KEEP YOUR MESS IN YOUR *OWN* CAVE, ALL RIGHT?
AHEM. I'M SURE PERIL IS SORRY, TOO.
I AM?
FOR BURNING UP THIS DRAGON'S HOMEWORK, WHICH HE PROBABLY WORKED VERY HARD ON.
NOD NOD
AH! OK, SURE. I'M SORRY YOUR SCROLL MET A FIERY END.
ON THE *PLUS* SIDE, AT LEAST IT WAS A SCROLL AND NOT, SAY, YOUR TAIL.

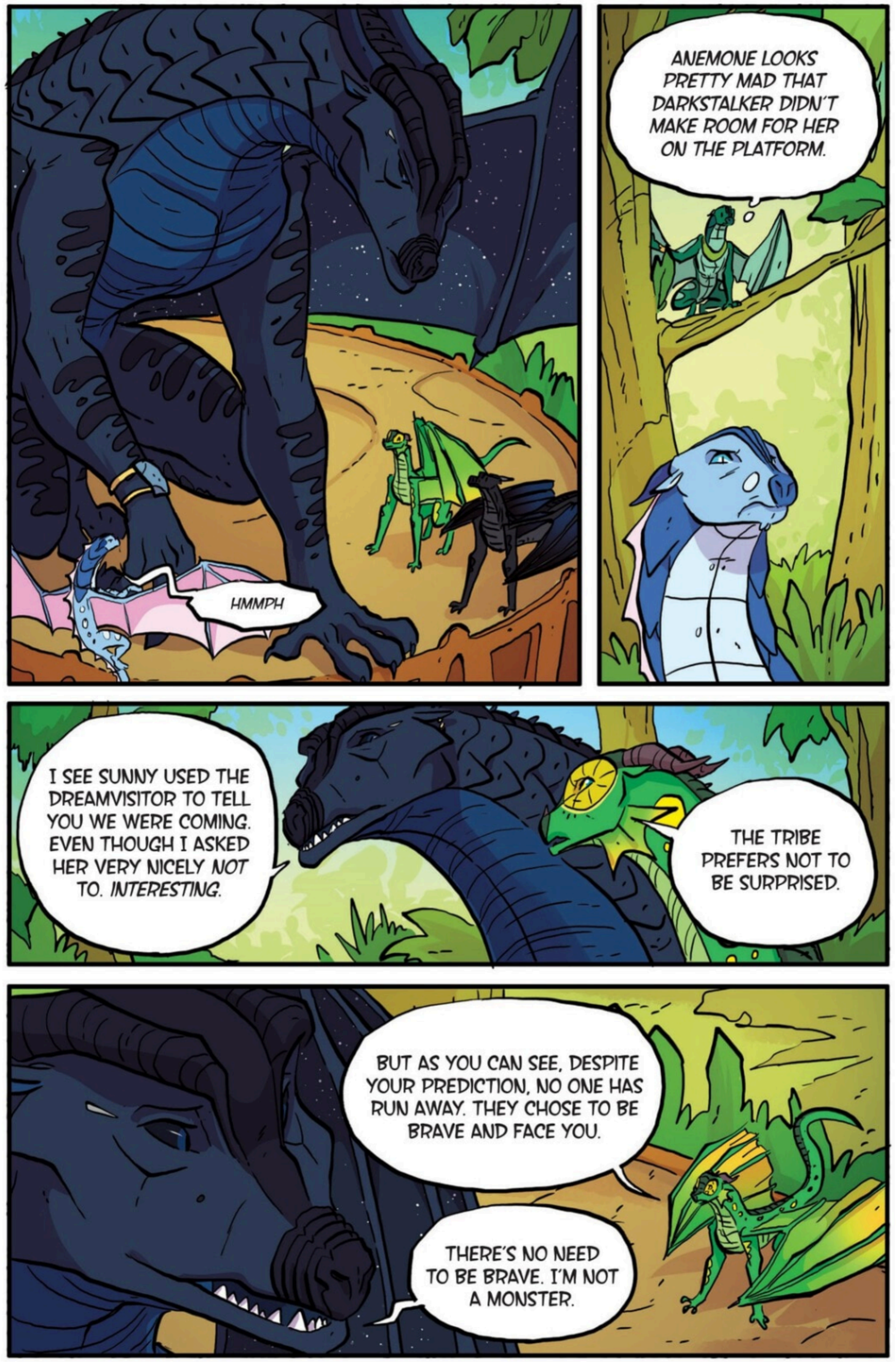

THAT'S OUR PERIL. SPREADING A LITTLE TERROR BEFORE BEDTIME.
HRMPH. I THOUGHT IT WAS A VERY NICE APOLOGY MYSELF.
HOW WAS YOUR MEETING WITH CLAY?
HE WAS VERY PLEASED. THERE WAS *HUGGING!*
I'D BETTER PACK.
I MEAN, HE HUGGED ME. NO BIG DEAL. DRAGONS PROBABLY HUG YOU GUYS ALL THE TIME.
THE BOWL WON'T FIT.
I GUESS I'LL LEAVE IT HERE.

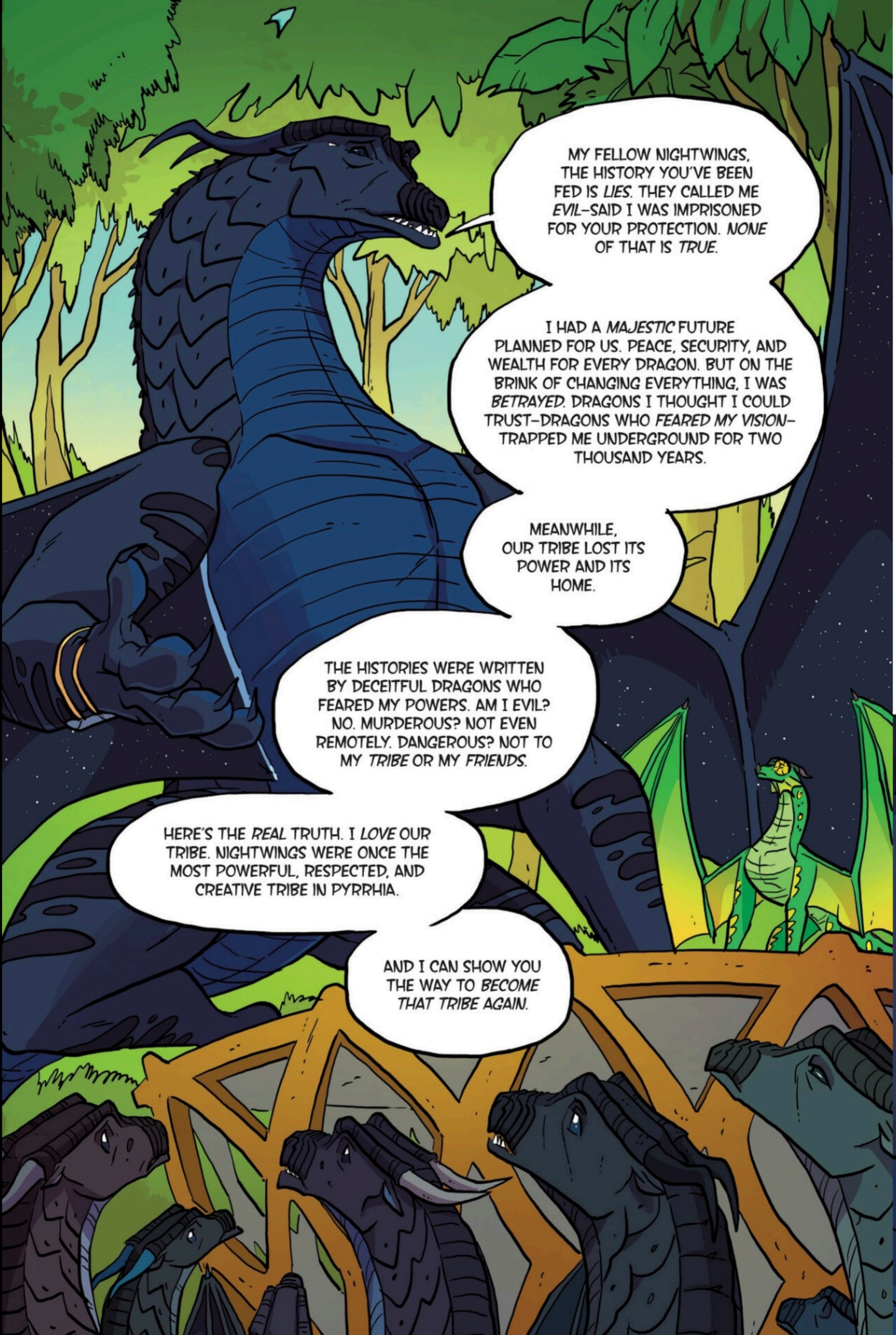

CLAY LIKES YOU, TOO.
REALLY? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I CAN TELL. HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT YET. GIVE HIM SOME TIME.
I HAVE LOTS AND LOTS OF TIME!
QIBLI THINKS CLAY LIKES ME.
I HEARD.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M FOLLOWING DARKSTALKER TO THE RAINFOREST TOMORROW. JUST... TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

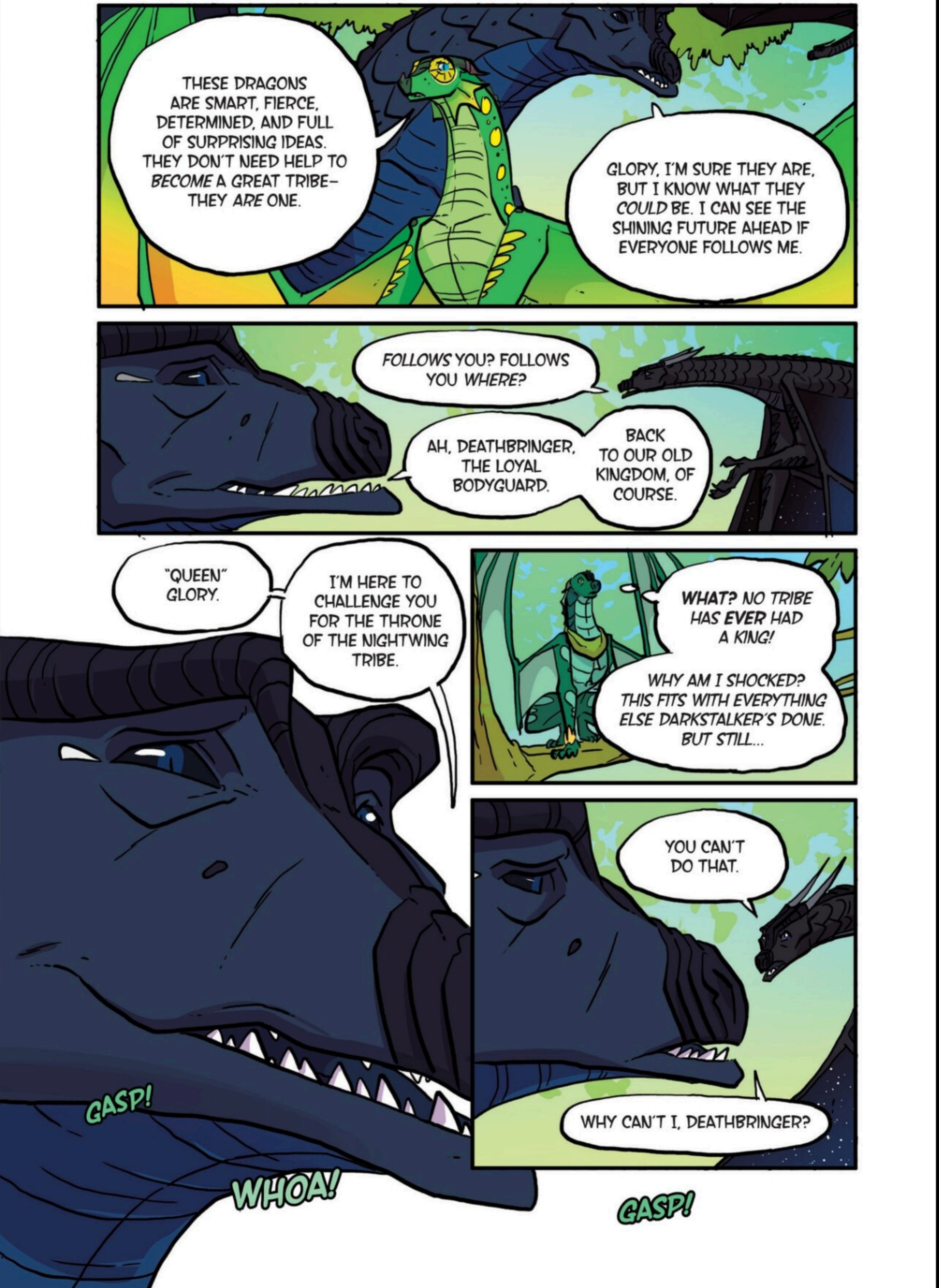

OH. YOU'RE LEAVING?
ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I HOPE. I WISH YOU COULD COME WITH ME.
I WISH I COULD, TOO, BUT NO FIRESCALES IN THE FOREST, BY ORDER OF QUEEN GLORY.
I'LL MISS YOUR BORING FACE, THOUGH. NOT, LIKE, A *LOT*. BUT A BIT.
YOU WON'T MISS ME AT ALL. YOU'LL HAVE CLAY TO HANG OUT WITH.
TRUE, TRUE.
I LIKE THE DRAGON I AM WITH PERIL.
I'M NOT SURE HOW OUR STORIES FIT TOGETHER, THOUGH. AM I HER SIDEKICK?
THE JUNGLE SCROLL
OR MAYBE IT'S LIKE THAT STORY ABOUT THE DRAGON WHO WAS RAISED BY WILD ORCAS, AND I'M THE ONE TEACHING HER ABOUT DRAGON SOCIETY.
*I WAS ONLY ABLE TO LEAVE JADE MOUNTAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE BECAUSE OF PERIL. IT FELT LIKE **HER** QUEST. NO PRESSURE ON **ME**. NOTHING I COULD SCREW UP.*
*...NOT LIKE TOMORROW. ALONE, POWERLESS, **USELESS**... THIS STORY CAN'T **POSSIBLY** END WELL.*

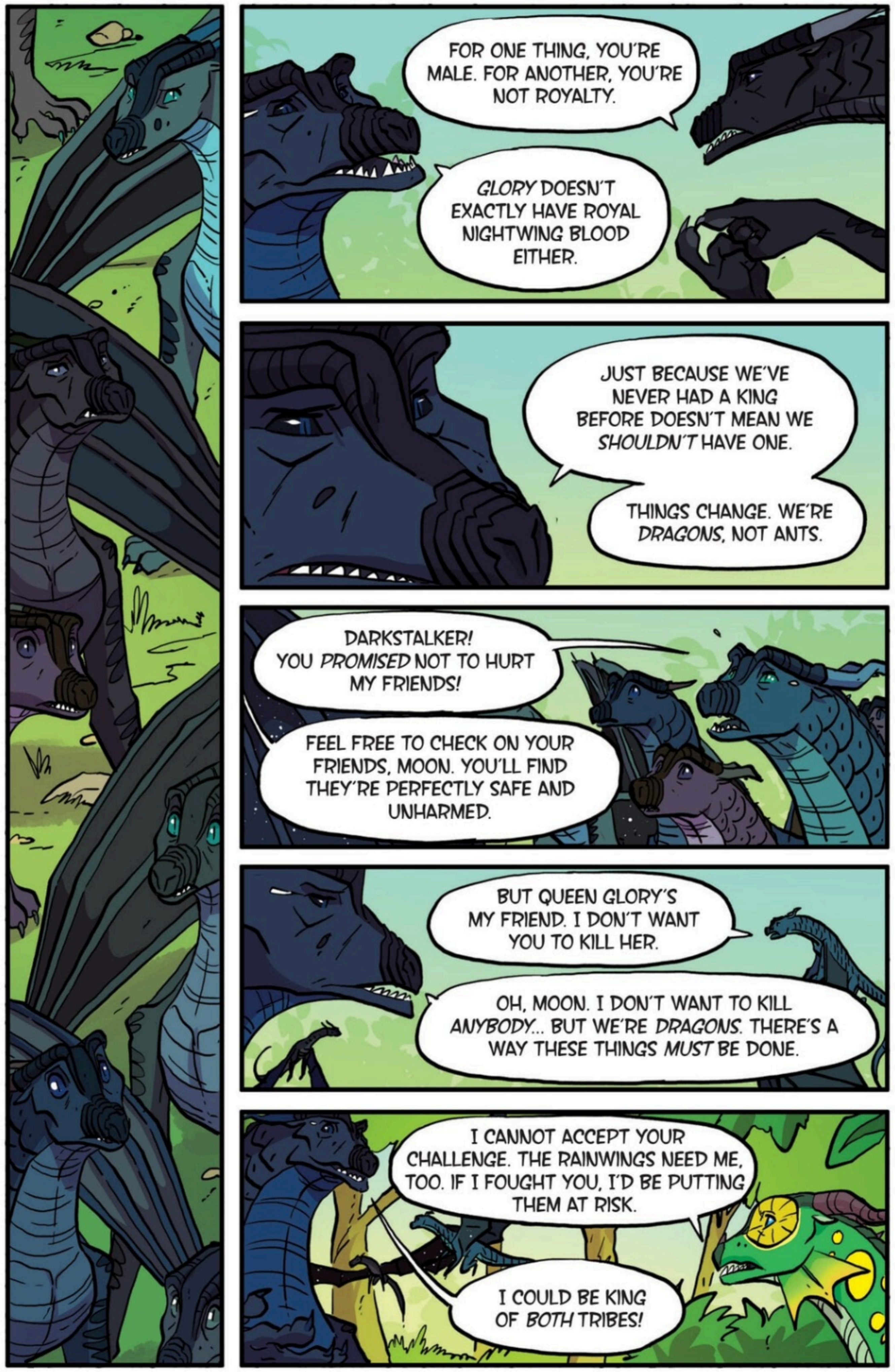

WHY ARE *YOU* COMING ALONG, TURTLE?
I JUST WANT TO... SEE WHAT DARKSTALKER DOES.
IN CASE HE DOES SOMETHING *SUPER EVIL?* YOU JELLYFISH. HE'S RESCUING HIS TRIBE.
QUEEN GLORY RESCUED THE NIGHTWINGS, ANEMONE. THEY'RE SAFE NOW.
RIGHT, SURE, SAFE TO BE CRUSHED SEASHELLS UNDER RAINWING TALONS.
THINK ABOUT IT, BIG BROTHER. IMAGINE MOTHER DIED AND I WAS TOO SPINELESS TO TAKE THE THRONE, SO THE SEAWINGS DECIDED TO GO LIVE IN THE MUD KINGDOM AND LET QUEEN MOORHEN BOSS US AROUND.
IS THAT *ANY* WAY FOR A *SELF-RESPECTING* TRIBE TO LIVE?
DID YOU GET IN TROUBLE WITH DARKSTALKER LAST NIGHT? I HEARD HE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
OH, *THAT.* IT WAS *RIDICULOUS!*
HE ASKED IF I CAST A SPELL WITHOUT PERMISSION. I SAID *"PERMISSION?"* AND HE SAID *"WITHOUT MY BRILLIANT ADVICE, THEN."*
I SAID I DIDN'T THINK SO, BUT I'VE ACCIDENTALLY USED MY POWER BEFORE. YOU'D THINK AN ANIMUS WOULD LEARN NOT TO YELL AT HER STUFF, BUT SOMETIMES I FORGET. I MADE A PEARL NECKLACE EXPLODE ONCE!
ANYWAY, HE KNOWS I'M A PRINCESS AND CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT.
PART TWO: RISE TO POWER

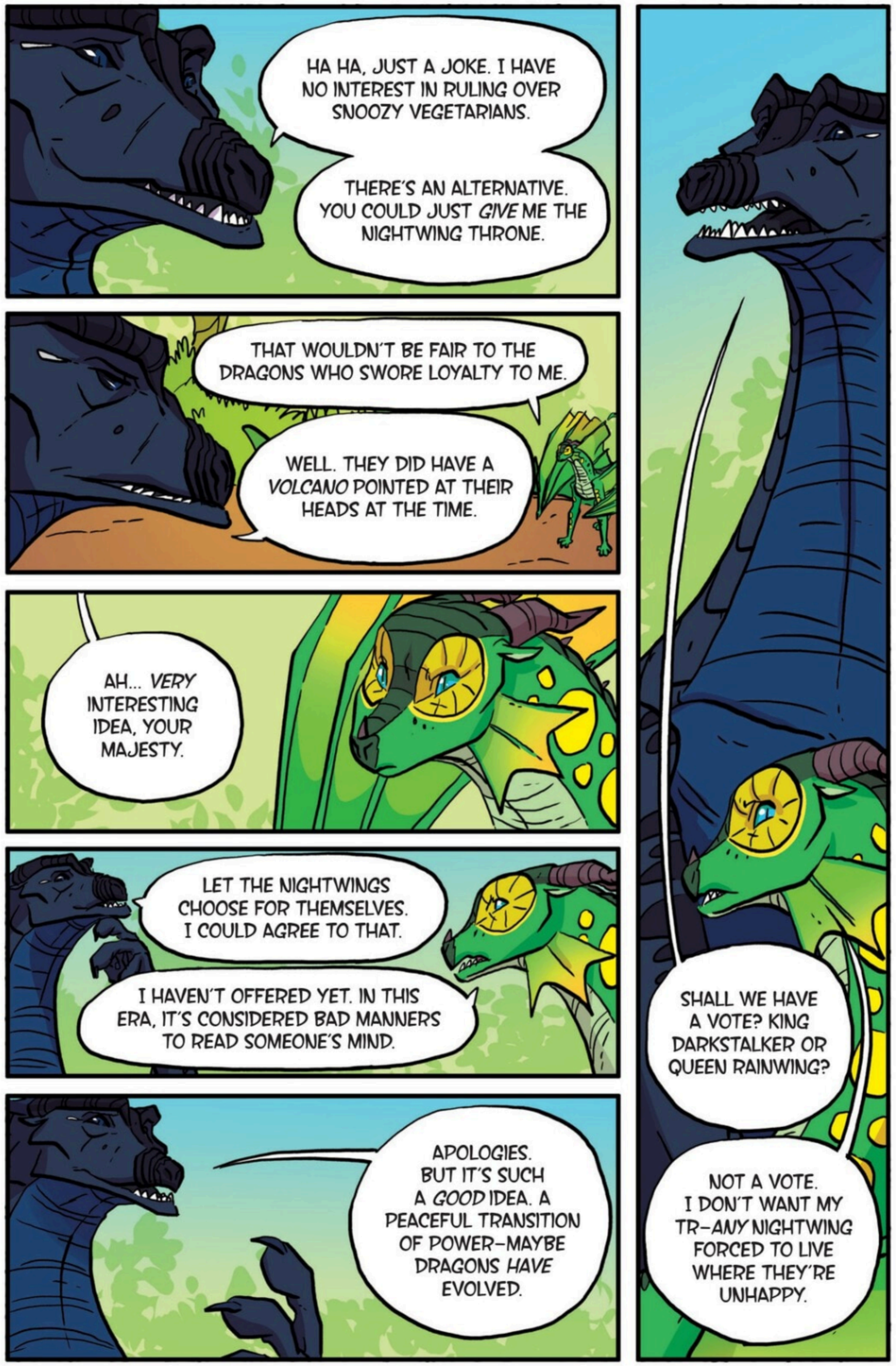

TIME FOR OUR GRAND ENTRANCE!
QUEEN GLORY.
DARKSTALKER, I PRESUME.

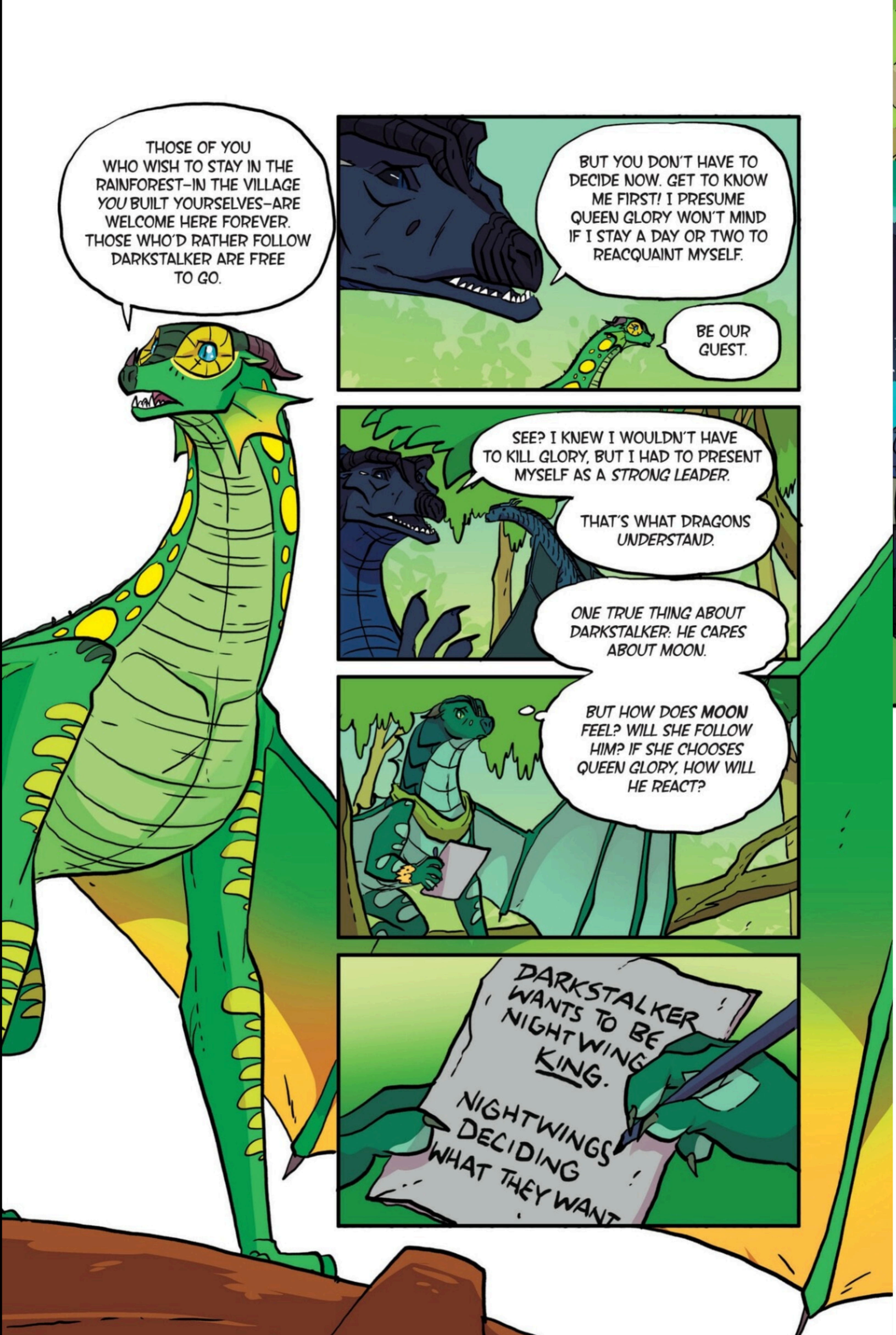

HMMPH
ANEMONE LOOKS PRETTY MAD THAT DARKSTALKER DIDN'T MAKE ROOM FOR HER ON THE PLATFORM.
I SEE SUNNY USED THE DREAMVISITOR TO TELL YOU WE WERE COMING. EVEN THOUGH I ASKED HER VERY NICELY *NOT* TO. *INTERESTING.*
THE TRIBE PREFERS NOT TO BE SURPRISED.
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, DESPITE YOUR PREDICTION, NO ONE HAS RUN AWAY. THEY CHOSE TO BE BRAVE AND FACE YOU.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE BRAVE. I'M NOT A MONSTER.

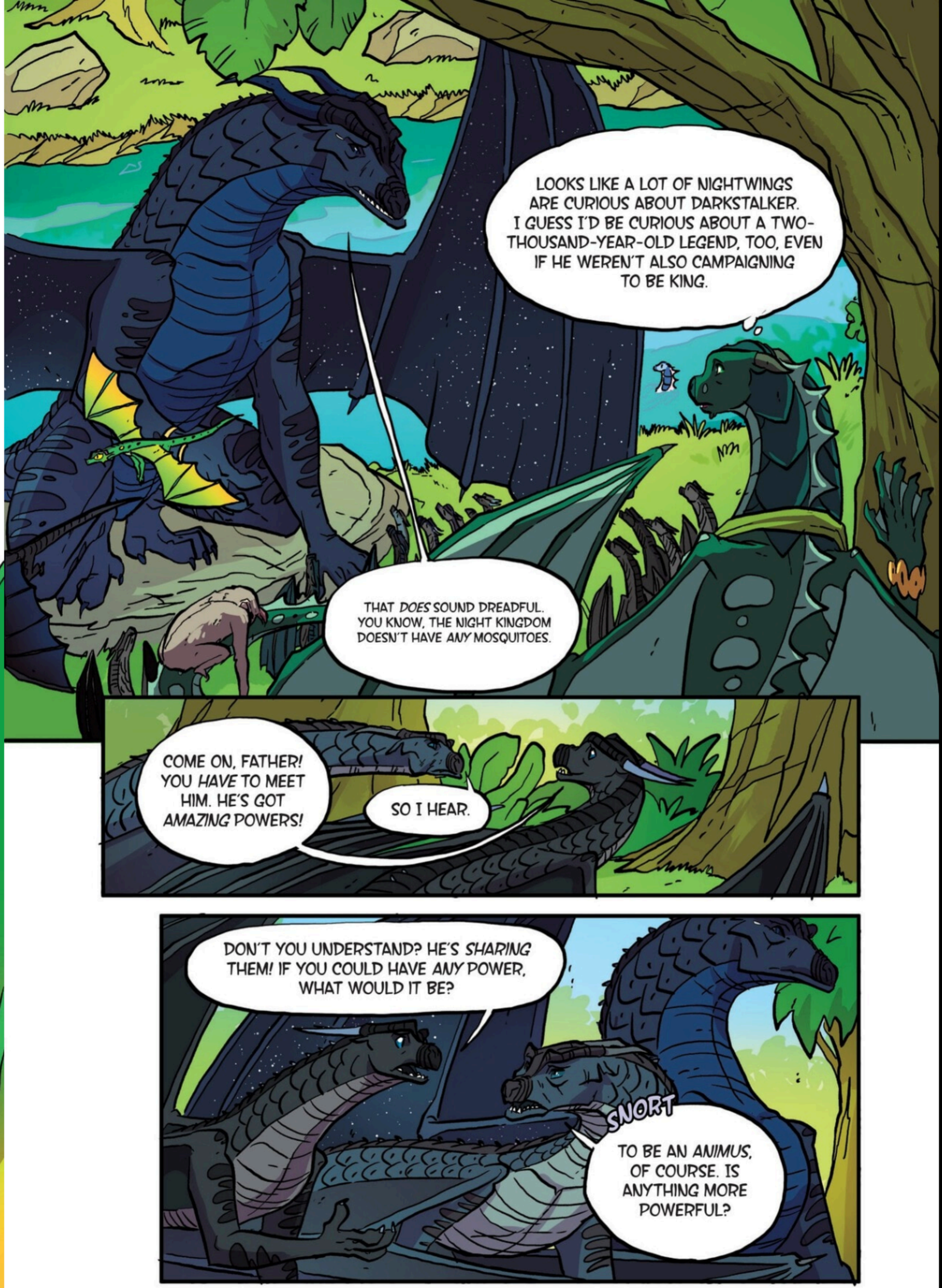

MY FELLOW NIGHTWINGS, THE HISTORY YOU'VE BEEN FED IS *LIES*. THEY CALLED ME *EVIL*–SAID I WAS IMPRISONED FOR YOUR PROTECTION. *NONE* OF THAT IS *TRUE*.
I HAD A *MAJESTIC* FUTURE PLANNED FOR US. PEACE, SECURITY, AND WEALTH FOR EVERY DRAGON. BUT ON THE BRINK OF CHANGING EVERYTHING, I WAS *BETRAYED*. DRAGONS I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST–DRAGONS WHO *FEARED MY VISION*–TRAPPED ME UNDERGROUND FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS.
MEANWHILE, OUR TRIBE LOST ITS POWER AND ITS HOME.
THE HISTORIES WERE WRITTEN BY DECEITFUL DRAGONS WHO FEARED MY POWERS. AM I EVIL? NO. MURDEROUS? NOT EVEN REMOTELY. DANGEROUS? NOT TO MY *TRIBE* OR MY *FRIENDS*.
HERE'S THE *REAL* TRUTH. I *LOVE* OUR TRIBE. NIGHTWINGS WERE ONCE THE MOST POWERFUL, RESPECTED, AND CREATIVE TRIBE IN PYRRHIA.
AND I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY TO *BECOME THAT TRIBE AGAIN*.

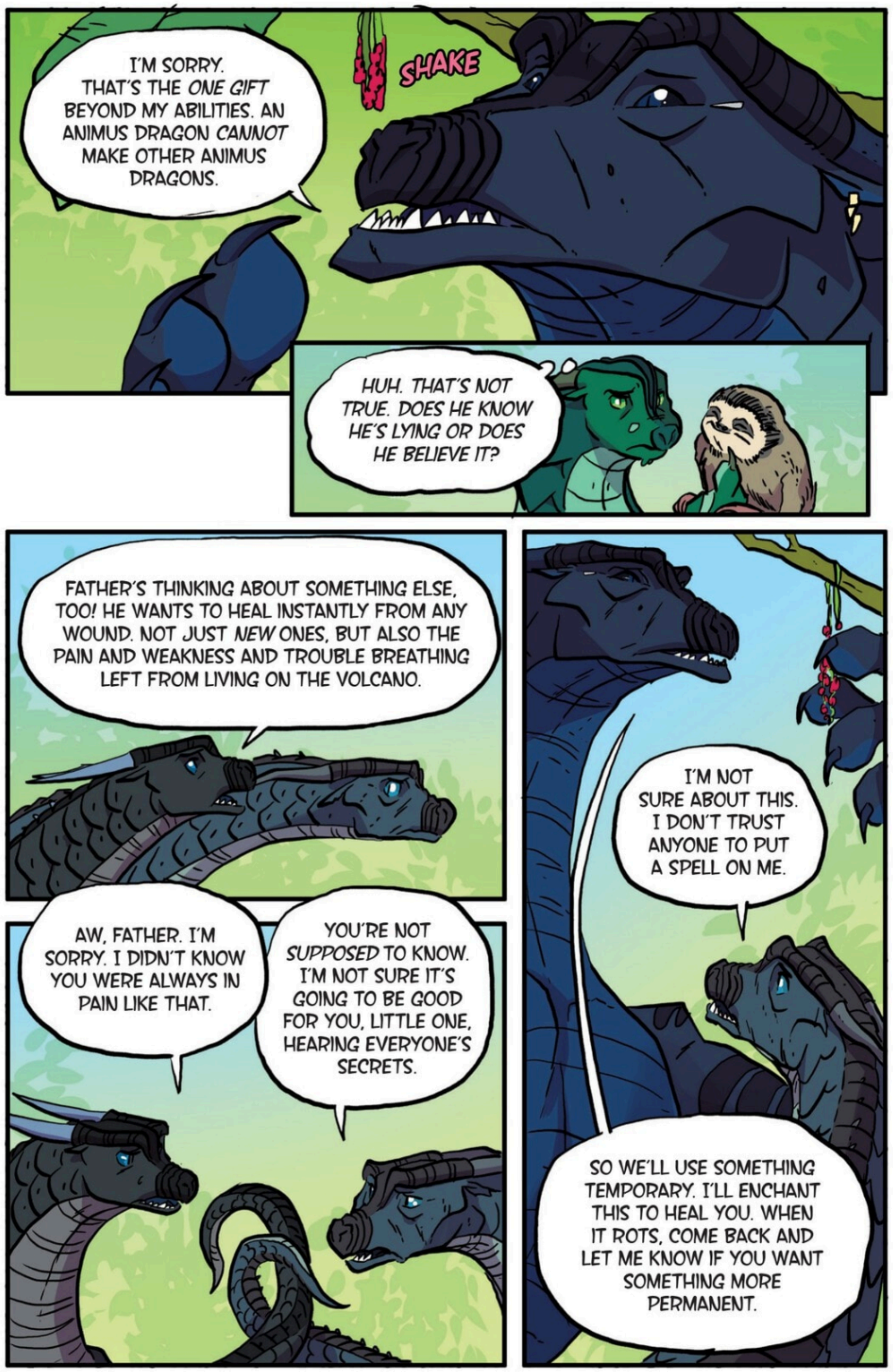

THESE DRAGONS ARE SMART, FIERCE, DETERMINED, AND FULL OF SURPRISING IDEAS. THEY DON'T NEED HELP TO *BECOME* A GREAT TRIBE–THEY *ARE* ONE.
GLORY, I'M SURE THEY ARE, BUT I KNOW WHAT THEY *COULD* BE. I CAN SEE THE SHINING FUTURE AHEAD IF EVERYONE FOLLOWS ME.
FOLLOWS YOU? FOLLOWS YOU *WHERE?*
AH, DEATHBRINGER, THE LOYAL BODYGUARD.
BACK TO OUR OLD KINGDOM, OF COURSE.
"QUEEN" GLORY.
I'M HERE TO CHALLENGE YOU FOR THE THRONE OF THE NIGHTWING TRIBE.
GASP!
WHOA!
WHAT? *NO TRIBE HAS* ***EVER*** *HAD A KING!*
WHY AM I SHOCKED? THIS FITS WITH EVERYTHING ELSE DARKSTALKER'S DONE. BUT STILL...
YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
WHY CAN'T I, DEATHBRINGER?
GASP!

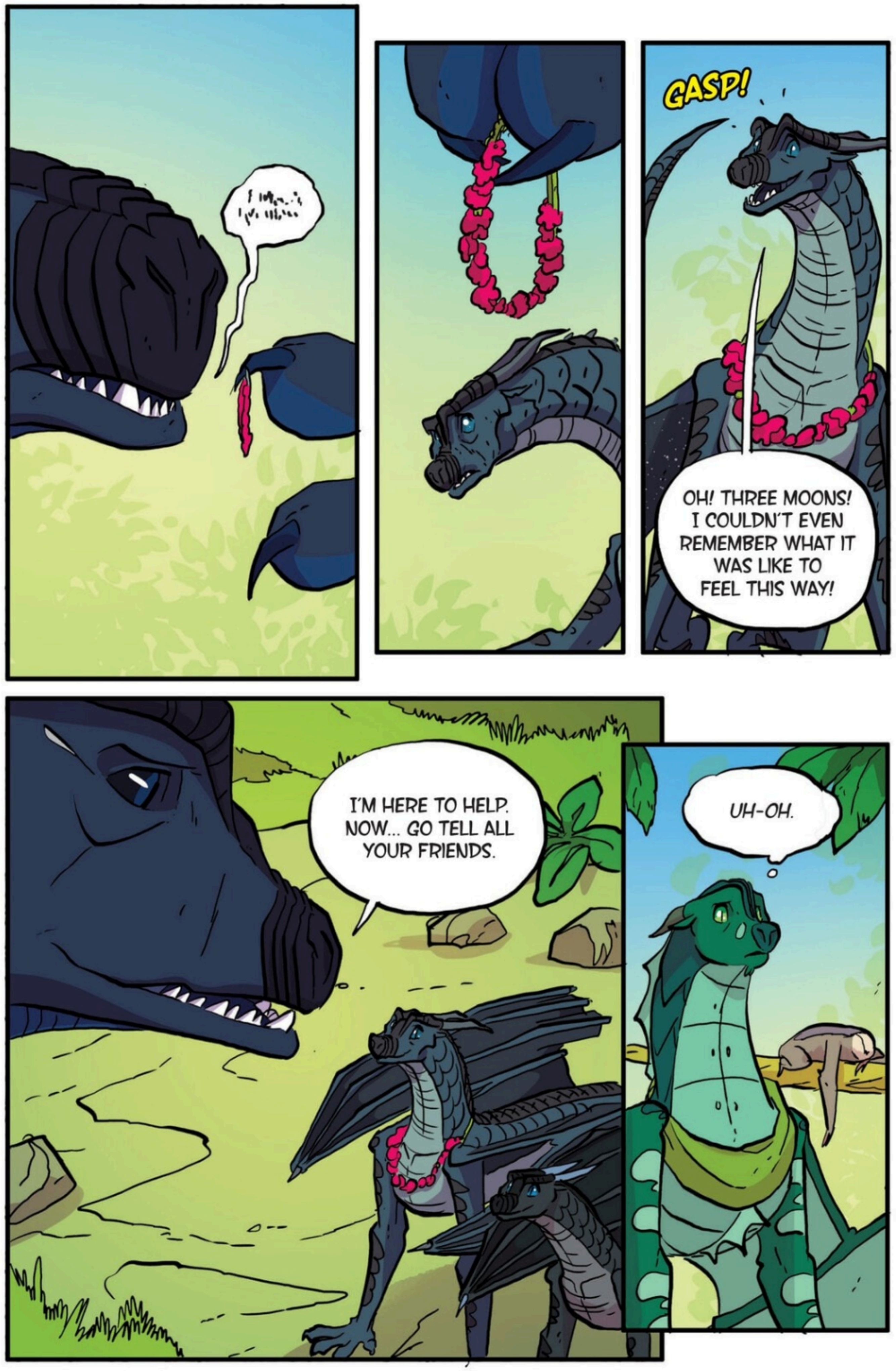

FOR ONE THING, YOU'RE MALE. FOR ANOTHER, YOU'RE NOT ROYALTY.
GLORY DOESN'T EXACTLY HAVE ROYAL NIGHTWING BLOOD EITHER.
JUST BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER HAD A KING BEFORE DOESN'T MEAN WE *SHOULDN'T* HAVE ONE.
THINGS CHANGE. WE'RE *DRAGONS*, NOT ANTS.
DARKSTALKER! YOU *PROMISED* NOT TO HURT MY FRIENDS!
FEEL FREE TO CHECK ON YOUR FRIENDS, MOON. YOU'LL FIND THEY'RE PERFECTLY SAFE AND UNHARMED.
BUT QUEEN GLORY'S MY FRIEND. I DON'T WANT YOU TO KILL HER.
OH, MOON. I DON'T WANT TO KILL *ANYBODY*... BUT WE'RE *DRAGONS*. THERE'S A WAY THESE THINGS *MUST* BE DONE.
I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE. THE RAINWINGS NEED ME, TOO. IF I FOUGHT YOU, I'D BE PUTTING THEM AT RISK.
I COULD BE KING OF *BOTH* TRIBES!

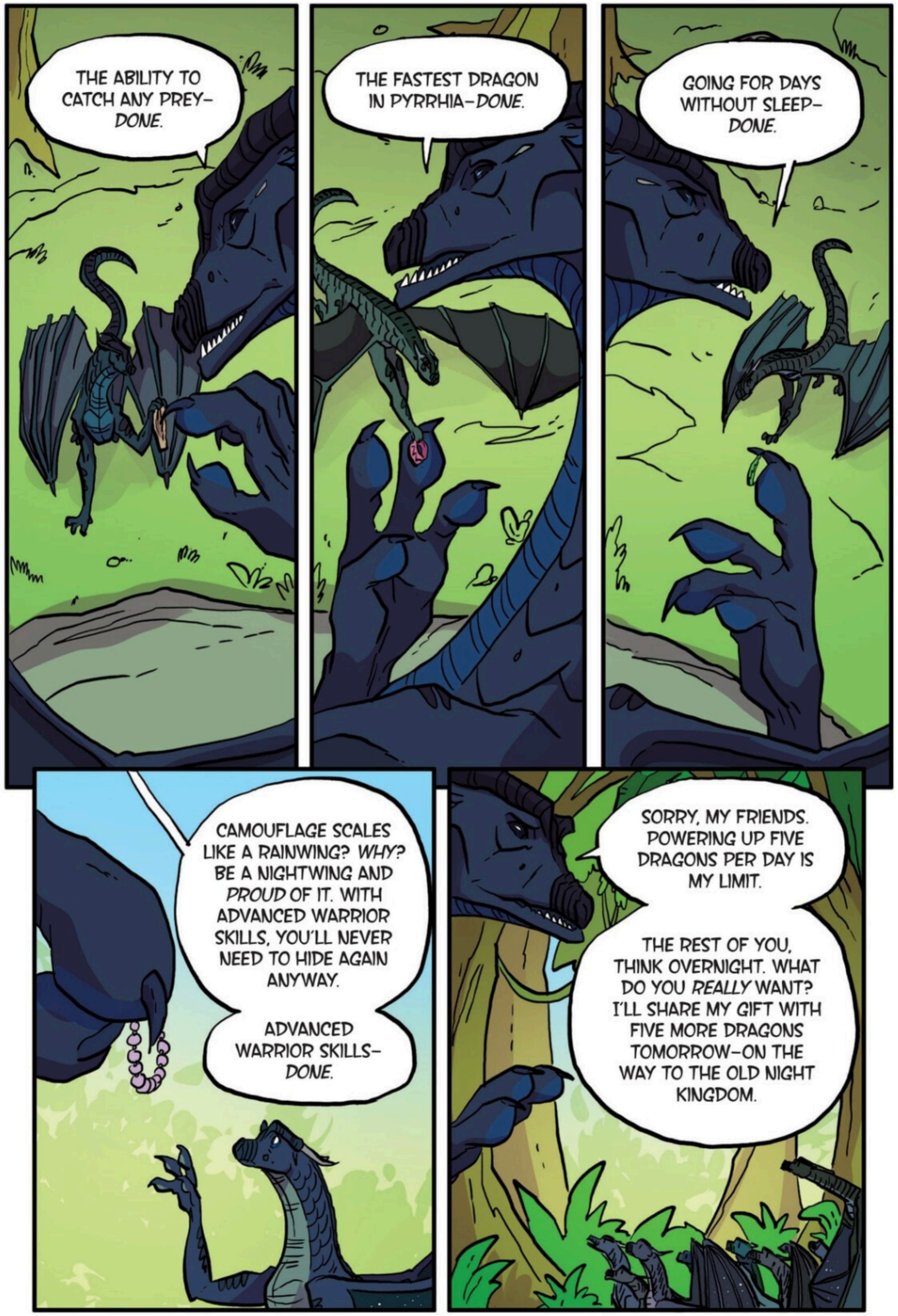

HA HA, JUST A JOKE. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN RULING OVER SNOOZY VEGETARIANS.
THERE'S AN ALTERNATIVE. YOU COULD JUST *GIVE* ME THE NIGHTWING THRONE.
THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO THE DRAGONS WHO SWORE LOYALTY TO ME.
WELL. THEY DID HAVE A *VOLCANO* POINTED AT THEIR HEADS AT THE TIME.
AH... *VERY* INTERESTING IDEA, YOUR MAJESTY.
LET THE NIGHTWINGS CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES. I COULD AGREE TO THAT.
I HAVEN'T OFFERED YET. IN THIS ERA, IT'S CONSIDERED BAD MANNERS TO READ SOMEONE'S MIND.
APOLOGIES. BUT IT'S SUCH A *GOOD* IDEA. A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER—MAYBE DRAGONS *HAVE* EVOLVED.
SHALL WE HAVE A VOTE? KING DARKSTALKER OR QUEEN RAINWING?
NOT A VOTE. I DON'T WANT MY TR–*ANY* NIGHTWING FORCED TO LIVE WHERE THEY'RE UNHAPPY.

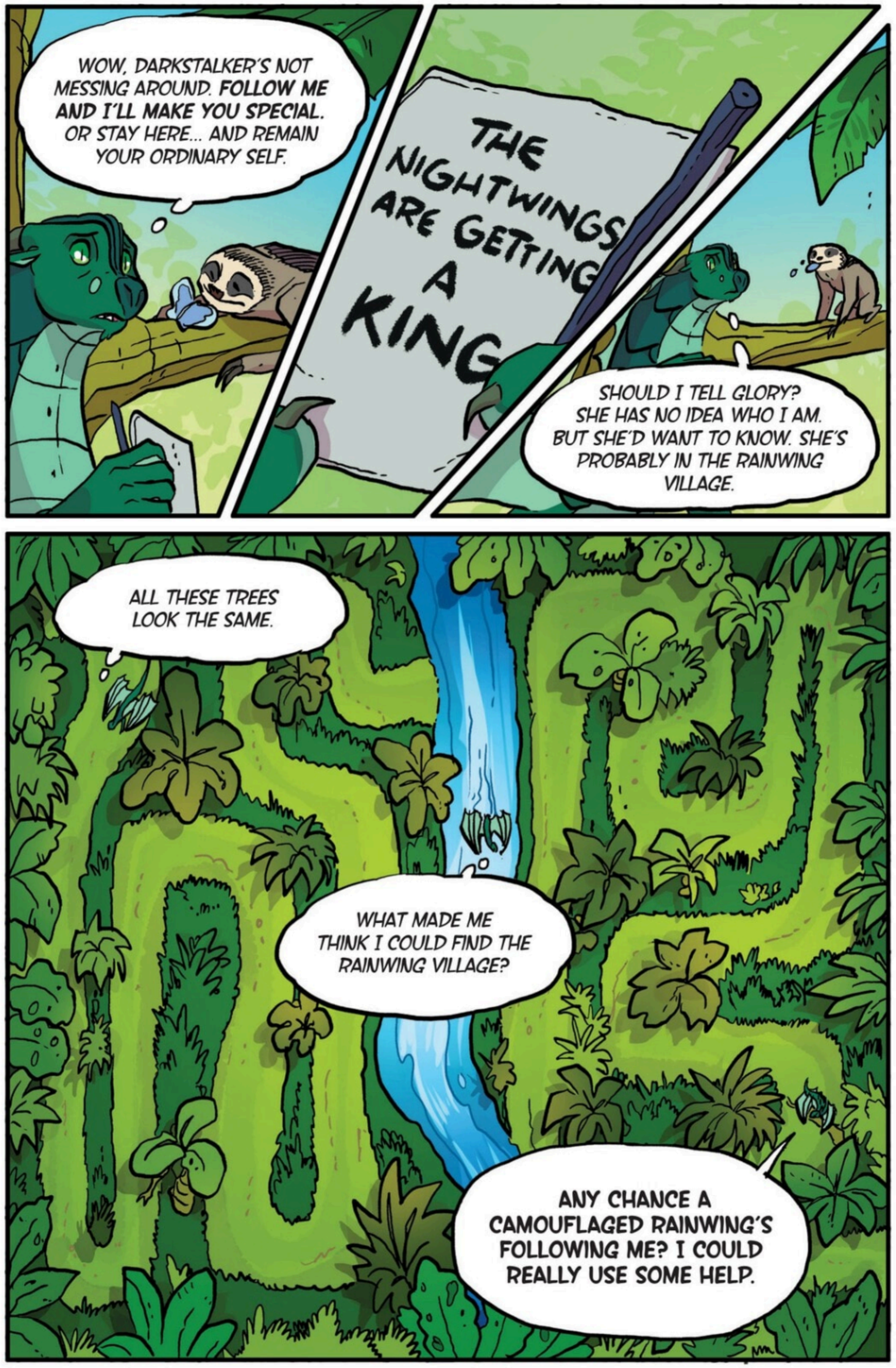

THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH TO STAY IN THE RAINFOREST–IN THE VILLAGE *YOU* BUILT YOURSELVES–ARE WELCOME HERE FOREVER. THOSE WHO'D RATHER FOLLOW DARKSTALKER ARE FREE TO GO.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE NOW. GET TO KNOW ME FIRST! I PRESUME QUEEN GLORY WON'T MIND IF I STAY A DAY OR TWO TO REACQUAINT MYSELF.
BE OUR GUEST.
SEE? I KNEW I WOULDN'T HAVE TO KILL GLORY, BUT I HAD TO PRESENT MYSELF AS A *STRONG LEADER*.
THAT'S WHAT DRAGONS *UNDERSTAND*.
ONE TRUE THING ABOUT DARKSTALKER: HE CARES ABOUT MOON.
BUT HOW DOES **MOON** *FEEL? WILL SHE FOLLOW HIM? IF SHE CHOOSES QUEEN GLORY, HOW WILL HE REACT?*
DARKSTALKER WANTS TO BE NIGHTWING KING.
NIGHTWINGS DECIDING WHAT THEY WANT

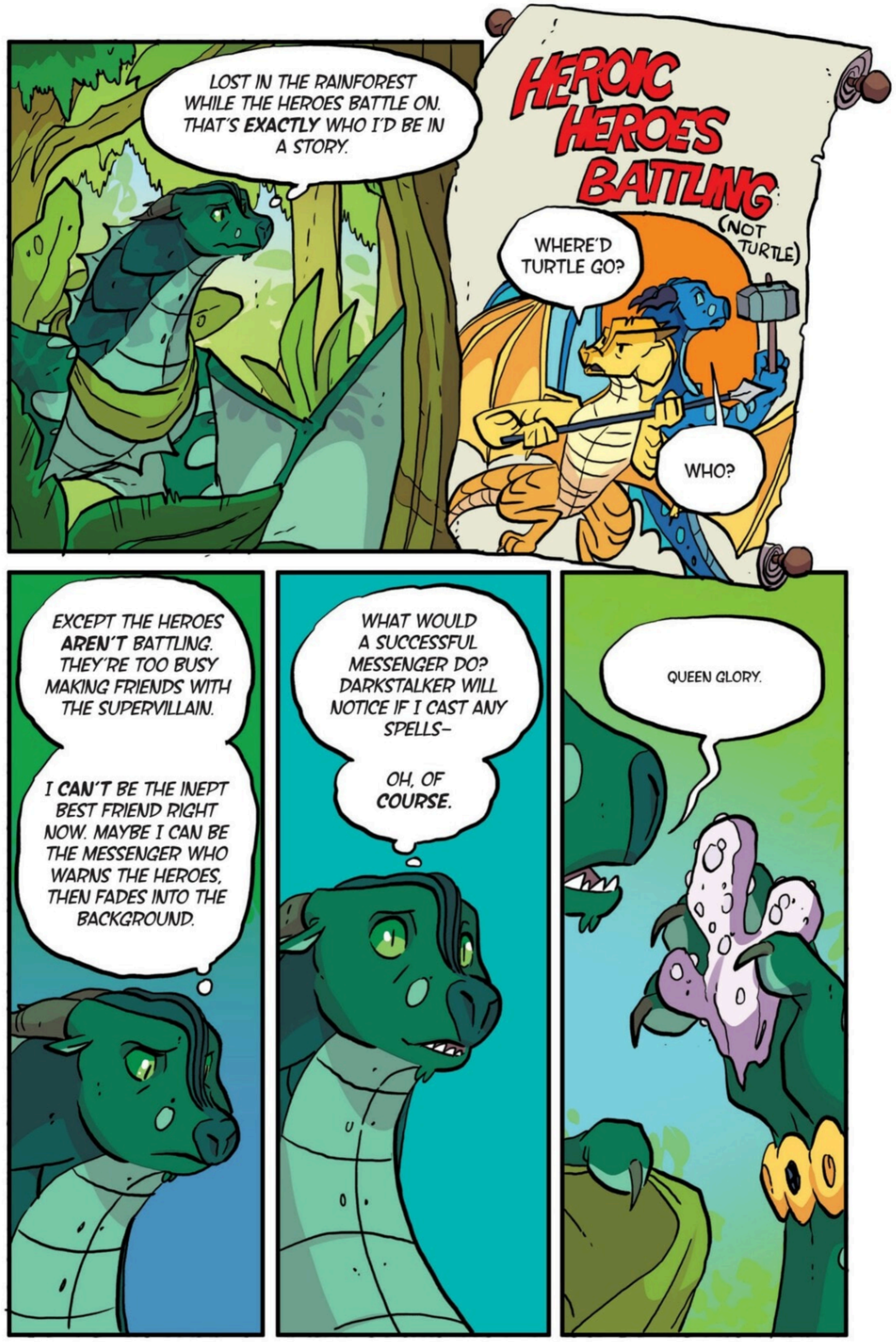

LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF NIGHTWINGS ARE CURIOUS ABOUT DARKSTALKER. I GUESS I'D BE CURIOUS ABOUT A TWO-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD LEGEND, TOO, EVEN IF HE WEREN'T ALSO CAMPAIGNING TO BE KING.
THAT *DOES* SOUND DREADFUL. YOU KNOW, THE NIGHT KINGDOM DOESN'T HAVE ANY MOSQUITOES.
COME ON, FATHER! YOU *HAVE* TO MEET HIM. HE'S GOT *AMAZING* POWERS!
SO I HEAR.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? HE'S *SHARING* THEM! IF YOU COULD HAVE *ANY* POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
SNORT
TO BE AN *ANIMUS*, OF COURSE. IS ANYTHING MORE POWERFUL?

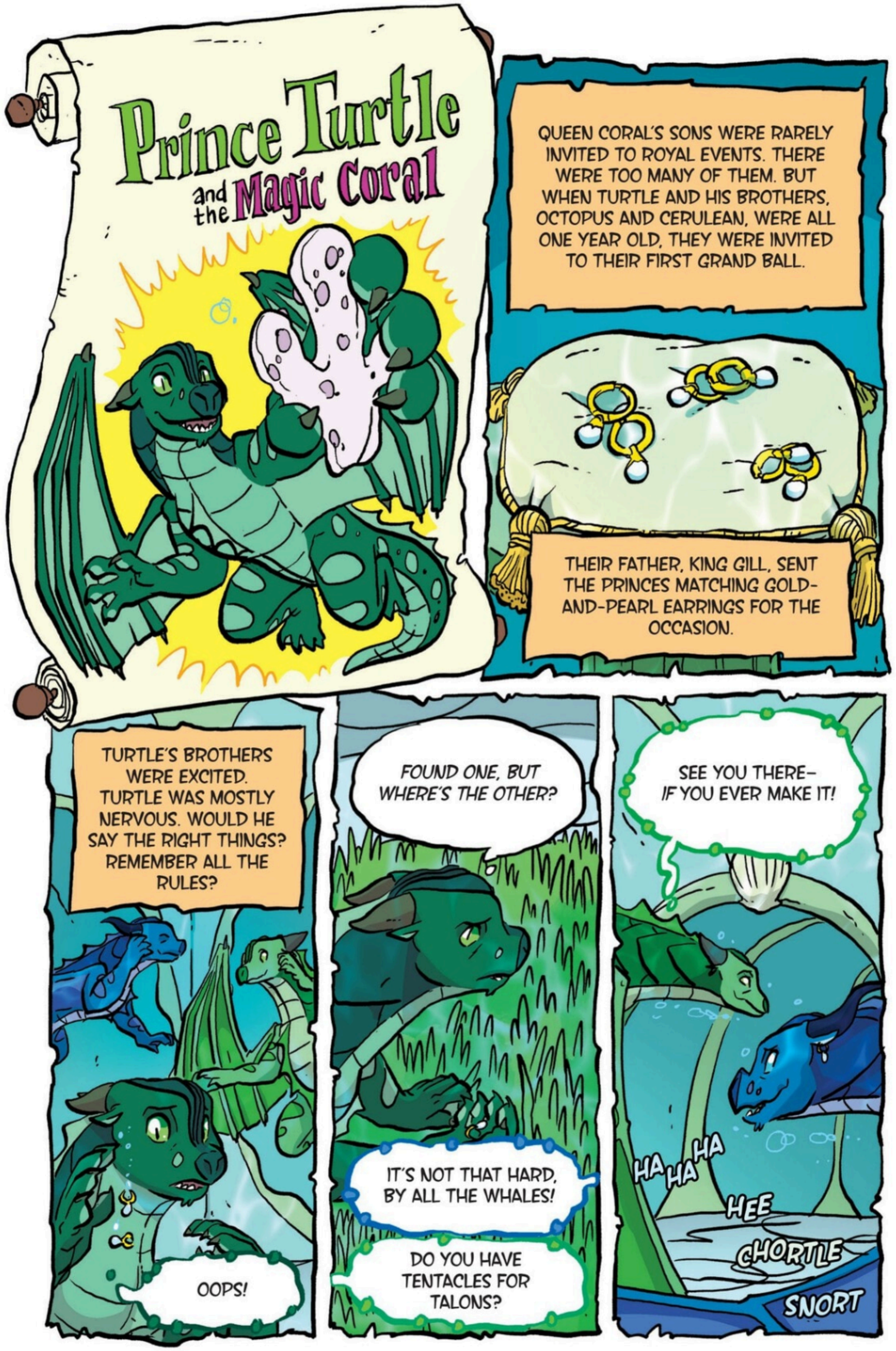

I'M SORRY. THAT'S THE *ONE GIFT* BEYOND MY ABILITIES. AN ANIMUS DRAGON *CANNOT* MAKE OTHER ANIMUS DRAGONS.
SHAKE
HUH. THAT'S NOT TRUE. DOES HE KNOW HE'S LYING OR DOES HE BELIEVE IT?
FATHER'S THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, TOO! HE WANTS TO HEAL INSTANTLY FROM ANY WOUND. NOT JUST *NEW* ONES, BUT ALSO THE PAIN AND WEAKNESS AND TROUBLE BREATHING LEFT FROM LIVING ON THE VOLCANO.
AW, FATHER. I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ALWAYS IN PAIN LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE NOT *SUPPOSED* TO KNOW. I'M NOT SURE IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD FOR YOU, LITTLE ONE, HEARING EVERYONE'S SECRETS.
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS. I DON'T TRUST ANYONE TO PUT A SPELL ON ME.
SO WE'LL USE SOMETHING TEMPORARY. I'LL ENCHANT THIS TO HEAL YOU. WHEN IT ROTS, COME BACK AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT SOMETHING MORE PERMANENT.

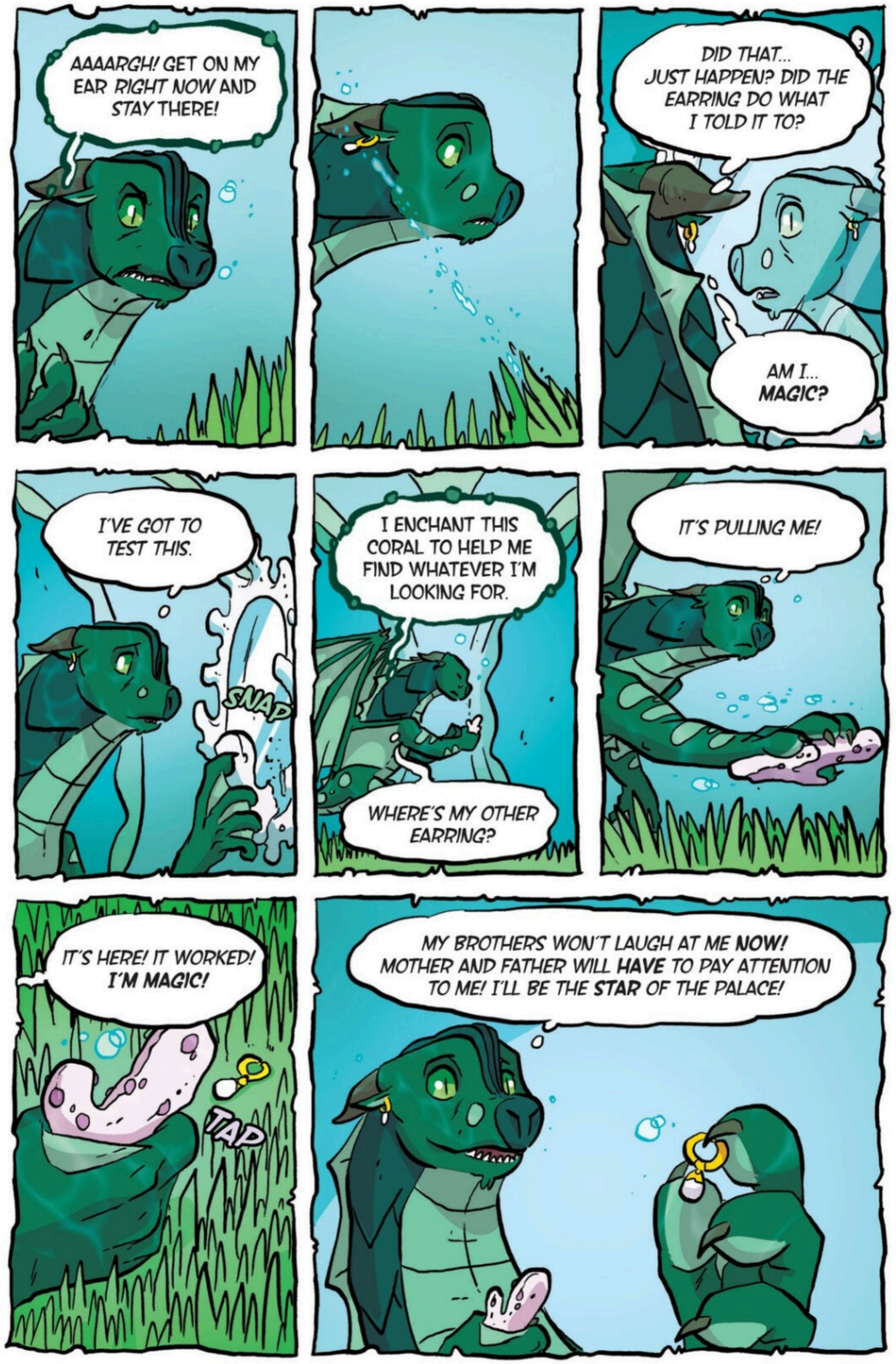

GASP!
OH! THREE MOONS! I COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO FEEL THIS WAY!
I'M HERE TO HELP. NOW... GO TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS.
UH-OH.

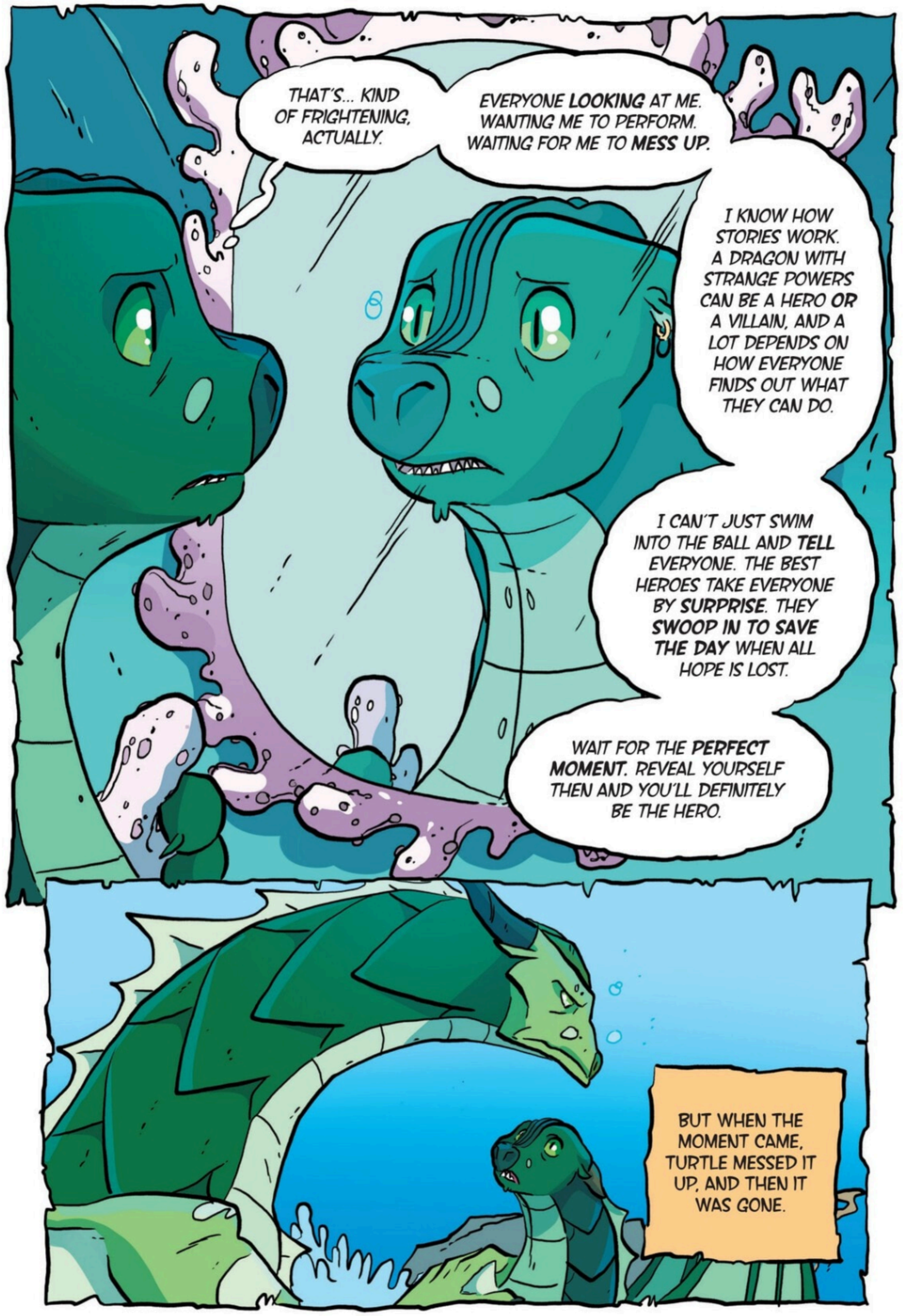

THE ABILITY TO CATCH ANY PREY— *DONE.*
THE FASTEST DRAGON IN PYRRHIA—*DONE.*
GOING FOR DAYS WITHOUT SLEEP— *DONE.*
CAMOUFLAGE SCALES LIKE A RAINWING? *WHY?* BE A NIGHTWING AND *PROUD* OF IT. WITH ADVANCED WARRIOR SKILLS, YOU'LL NEVER NEED TO HIDE AGAIN ANYWAY.
ADVANCED WARRIOR SKILLS— *DONE.*
SORRY, MY FRIENDS. POWERING UP FIVE DRAGONS PER DAY IS MY LIMIT.
THE REST OF YOU, THINK OVERNIGHT. WHAT DO YOU *REALLY* WANT? I'LL SHARE MY GIFT WITH FIVE MORE DRAGONS TOMORROW—ON THE WAY TO THE OLD NIGHT KINGDOM.

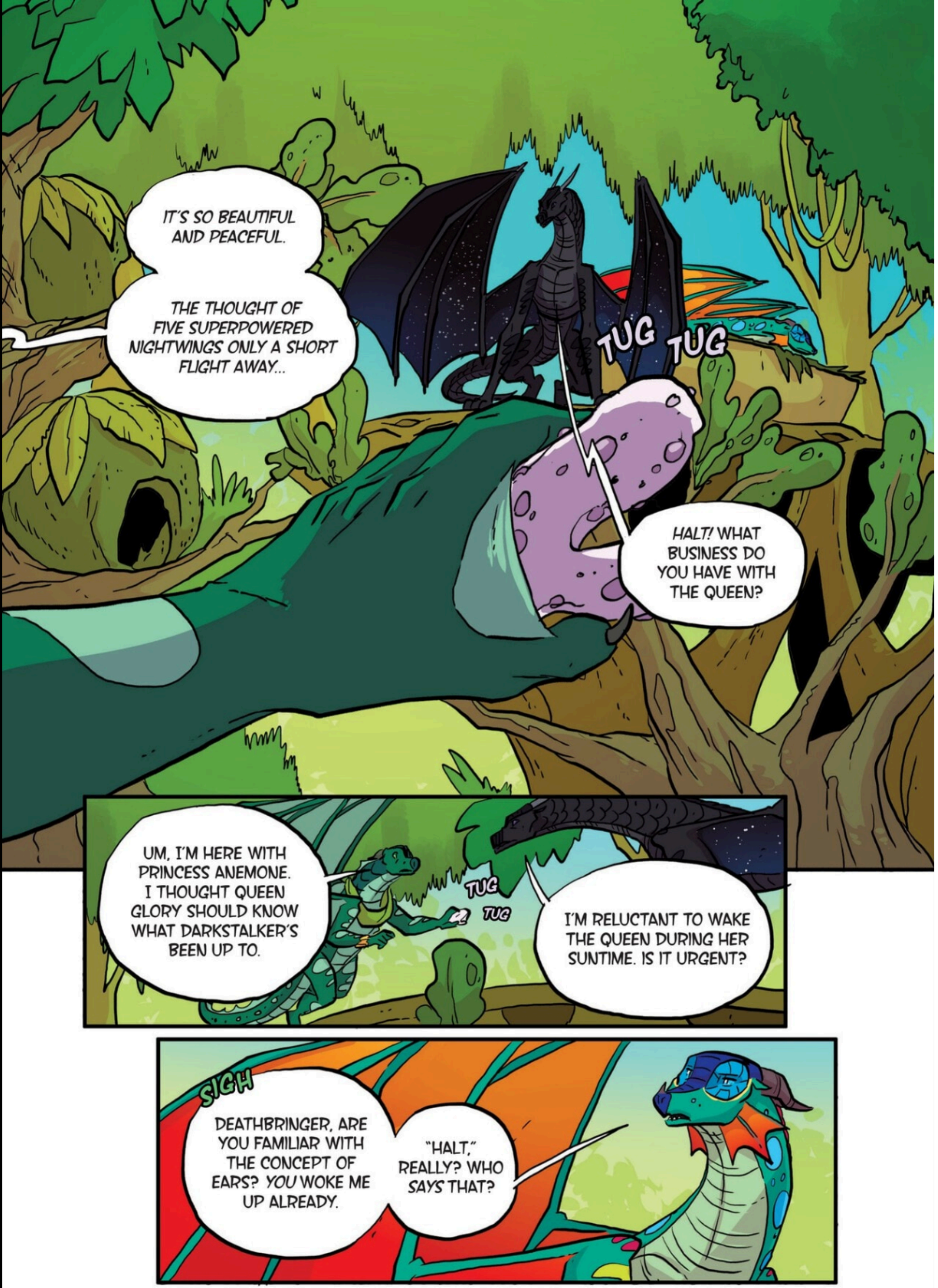

WOW, DARKSTALKER'S NOT MESSING AROUND. ***FOLLOW ME AND I'LL MAKE YOU SPECIAL.*** *OR STAY HERE... AND REMAIN YOUR ORDINARY SELF.*
THE NIGHTWINGS ARE GETTING A KING
SHOULD I TELL GLORY? SHE HAS NO IDEA WHO I AM. BUT SHE'D WANT TO KNOW. SHE'S PROBABLY IN THE RAINWING VILLAGE.
ALL THESE TREES LOOK THE SAME.
WHAT MADE ME THINK I COULD FIND THE RAINWING VILLAGE?
ANY CHANCE A CAMOUFLAGED RAINWING'S FOLLOWING ME? I COULD REALLY USE SOME HELP.

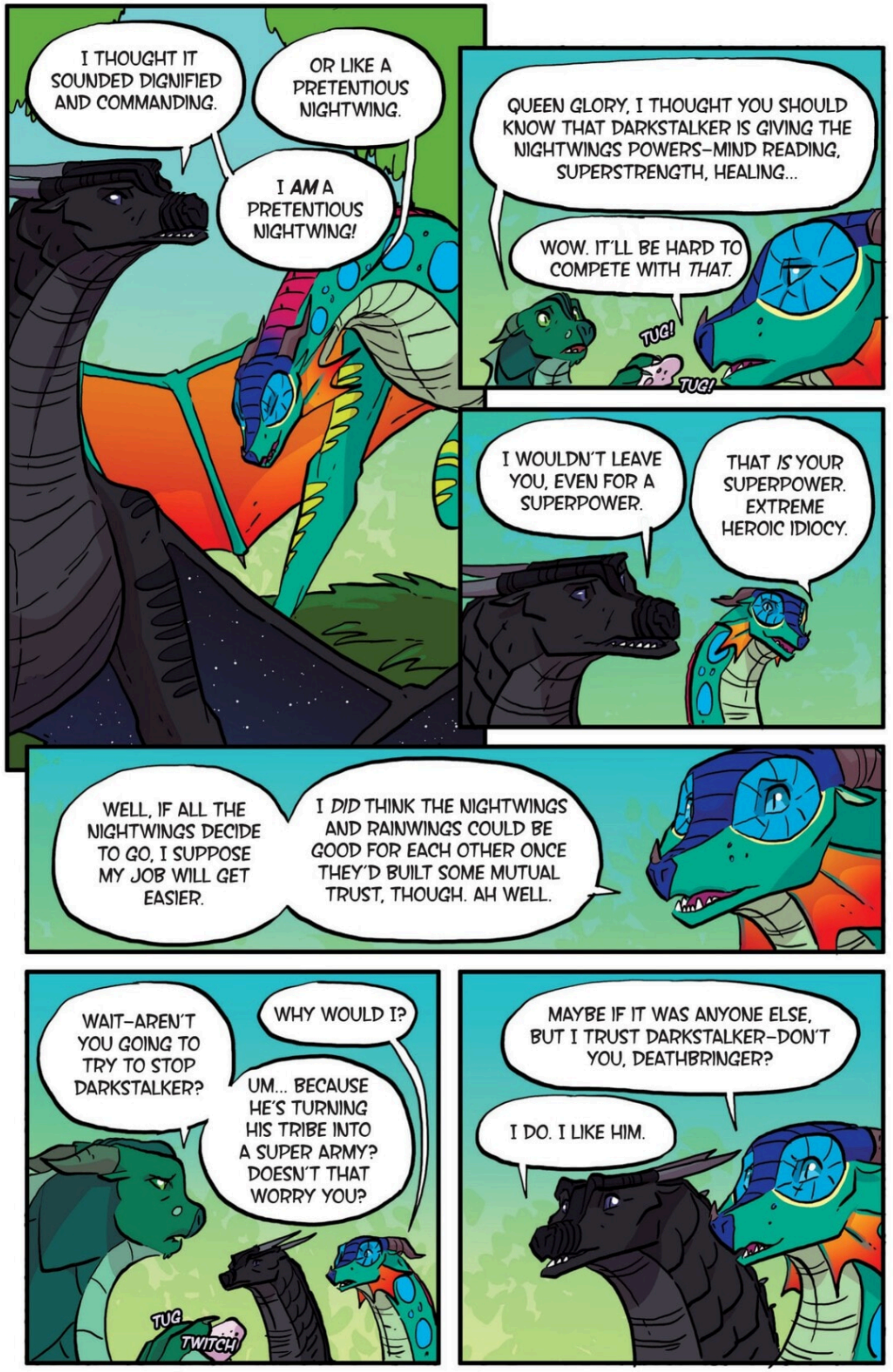

LOST IN THE RAINFOREST WHILE THE HEROES BATTLE ON. THAT'S **EXACTLY** WHO I'D BE IN A STORY.
HEROIC HEROES BATTLING
(NOT TURTLE)
WHERE'D TURTLE GO?
WHO?
EXCEPT THE HEROES **AREN'T** BATTLING. THEY'RE TOO BUSY MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE SUPERVILLAIN.
I **CAN'T** BE THE INEPT BEST FRIEND RIGHT NOW. MAYBE I CAN BE THE MESSENGER WHO WARNS THE HEROES, THEN FADES INTO THE BACKGROUND.
WHAT WOULD A SUCCESSFUL MESSENGER DO? DARKSTALKER WILL NOTICE IF I CAST ANY SPELLS–
OH, OF **COURSE**.
QUEEN GLORY.

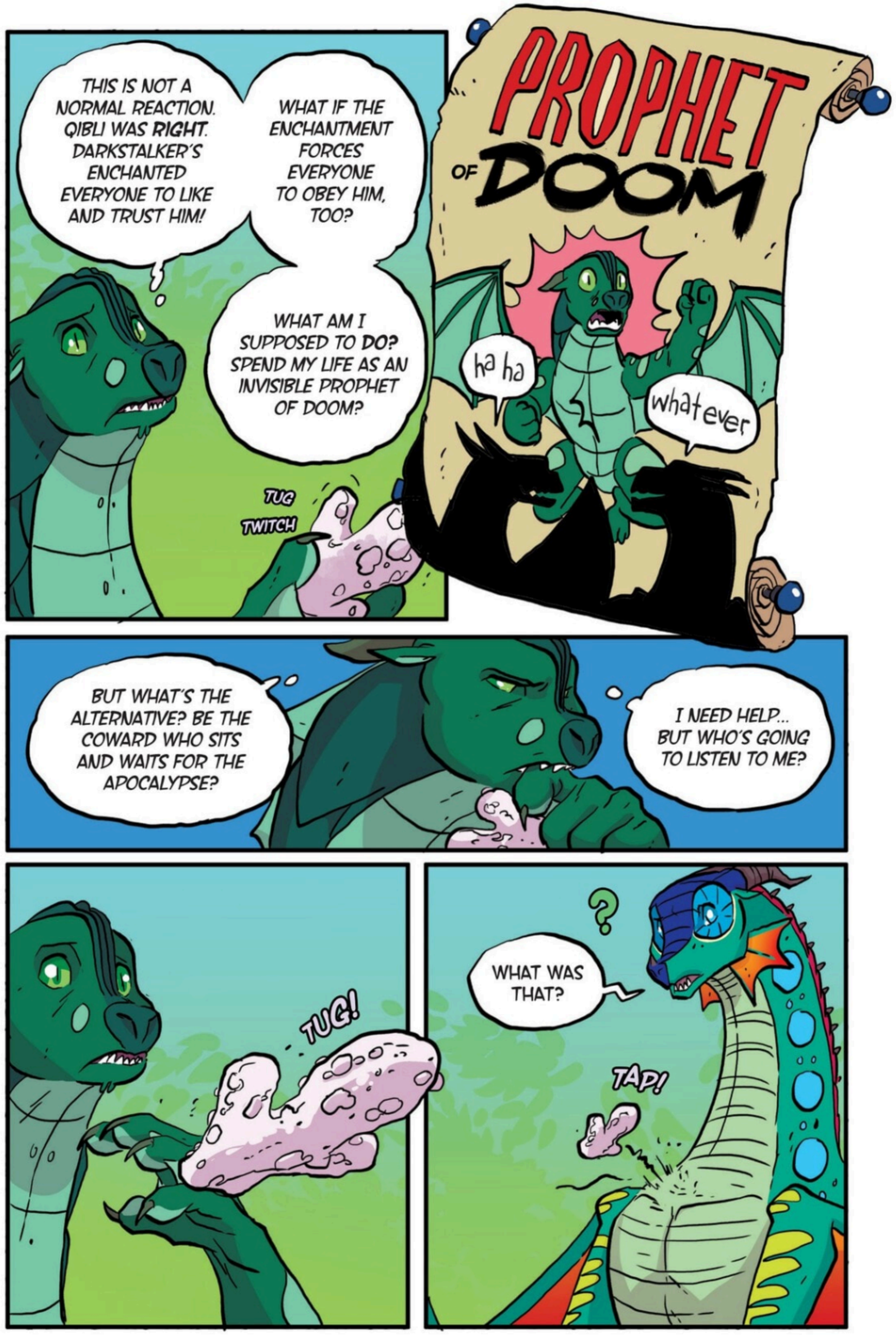

Prince Turtle and the Magic Coral
QUEEN CORAL'S SONS WERE RARELY INVITED TO ROYAL EVENTS. THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM. BUT WHEN TURTLE AND HIS BROTHERS, OCTOPUS AND CERULEAN, WERE ALL ONE YEAR OLD, THEY WERE INVITED TO THEIR FIRST GRAND BALL.
THEIR FATHER, KING GILL, SENT THE PRINCES MATCHING GOLD-AND-PEARL EARRINGS FOR THE OCCASION.
TURTLE'S BROTHERS WERE EXCITED. TURTLE WAS MOSTLY NERVOUS. WOULD HE SAY THE RIGHT THINGS? REMEMBER ALL THE RULES?
OOPS!
FOUND ONE, BUT WHERE'S THE OTHER?
IT'S NOT THAT HARD, BY ALL THE WHALES!
DO YOU HAVE TENTACLES FOR TALONS?
SEE YOU THERE– IF YOU EVER MAKE IT!
HA HA HA HA
HEE
CHORTLE
SNORT

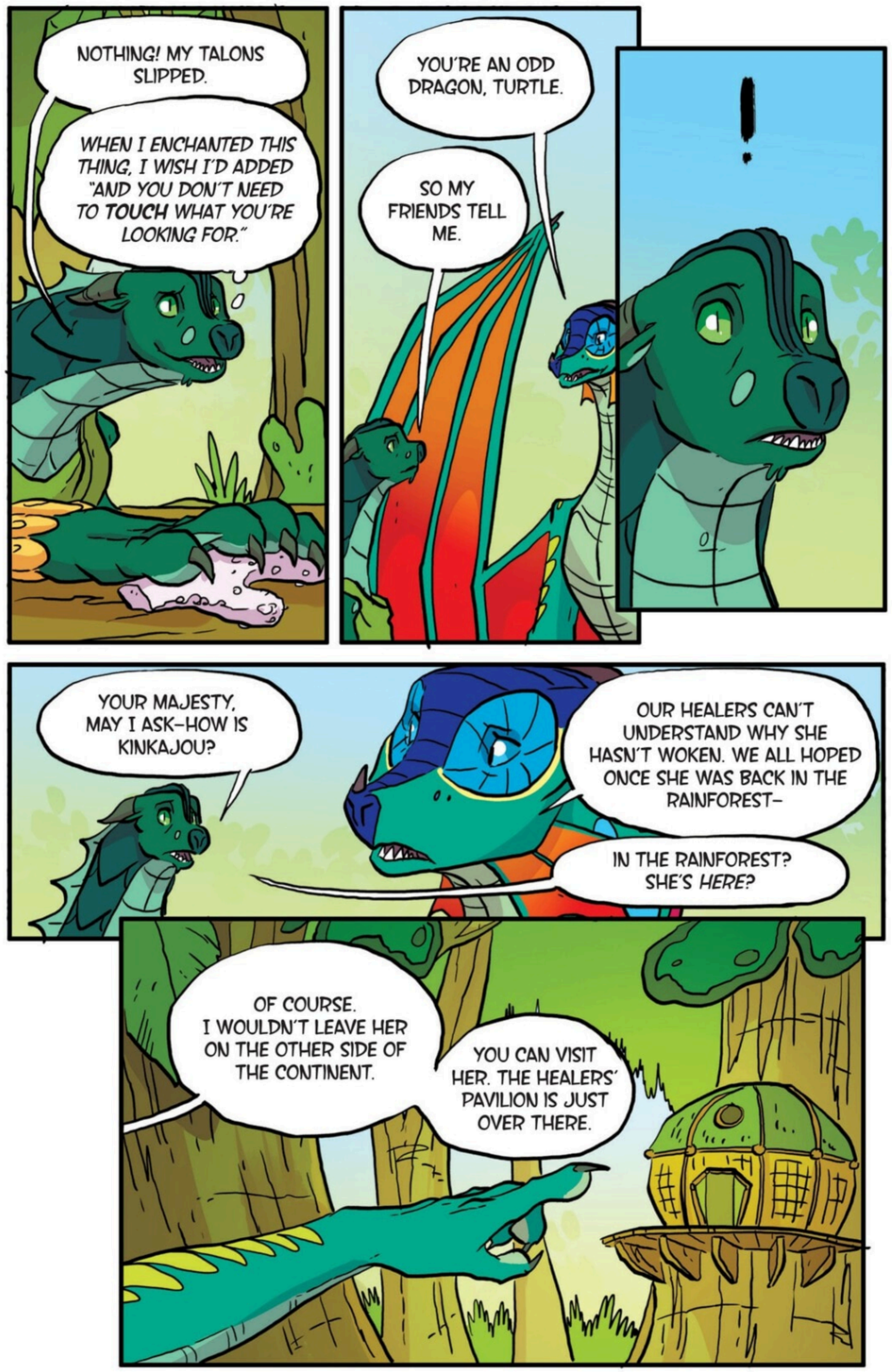

AAAARGH! GET ON MY EAR RIGHT NOW AND STAY THERE!
DID THAT... JUST HAPPEN? DID THE EARRING DO WHAT I TOLD IT TO?
AM I... **MAGIC?**
I'VE GOT TO TEST THIS.
SNAP
I ENCHANT THIS CORAL TO HELP ME FIND WHATEVER I'M LOOKING FOR.
WHERE'S MY OTHER EARRING?
IT'S PULLING ME!
IT'S HERE! IT WORKED! **I'M MAGIC!**
TAP
MY BROTHERS WON'T LAUGH AT ME **NOW!** MOTHER AND FATHER WILL **HAVE** TO PAY ATTENTION TO ME! I'LL BE THE **STAR** OF THE PALACE!

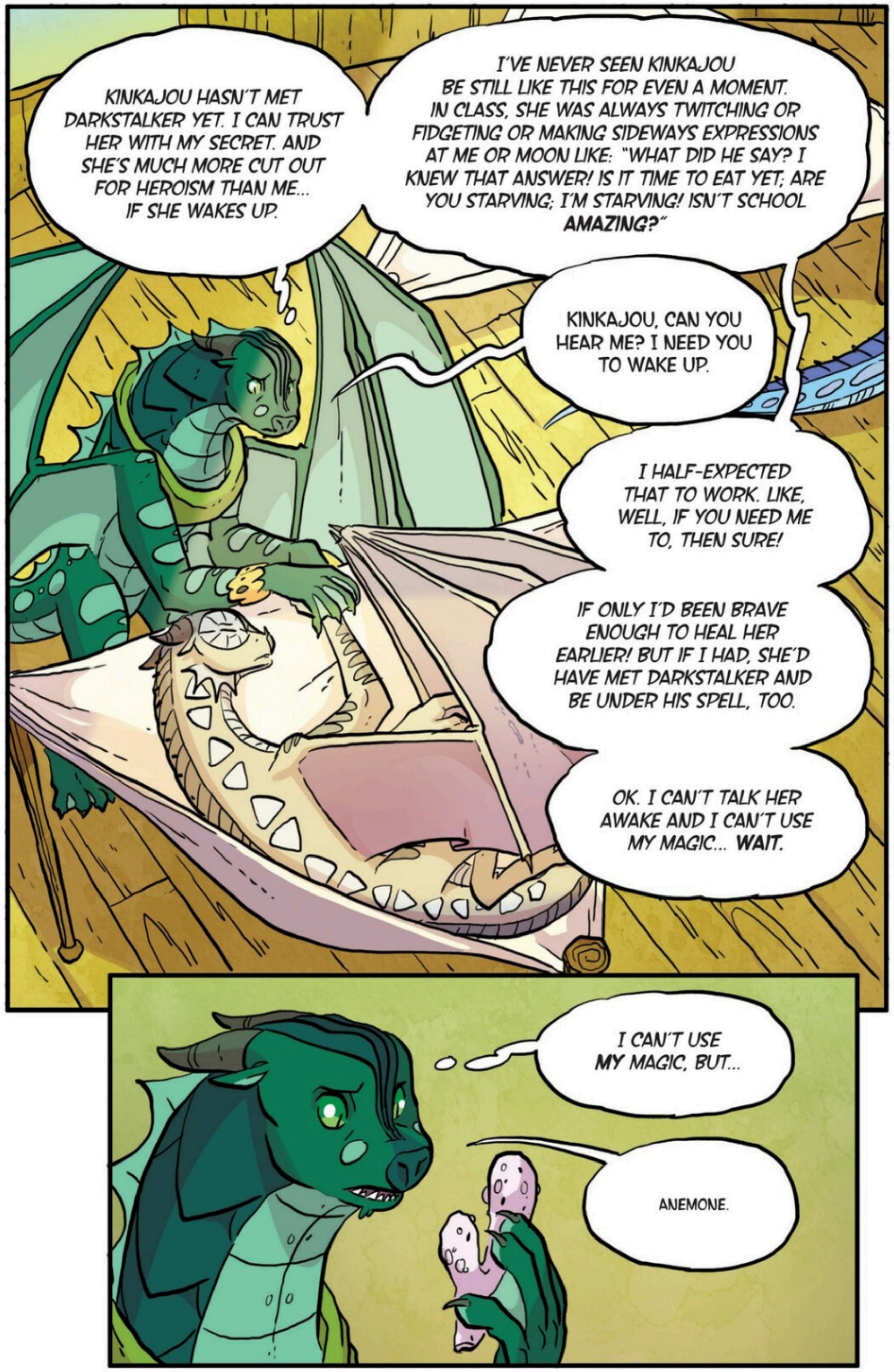

THAT'S... KIND OF FRIGHTENING, ACTUALLY.
EVERYONE **LOOKING** AT ME. WANTING ME TO PERFORM. WAITING FOR ME TO **MESS UP.**
I KNOW HOW STORIES WORK. A DRAGON WITH STRANGE POWERS CAN BE A HERO **OR** A VILLAIN, AND A LOT DEPENDS ON HOW EVERYONE FINDS OUT WHAT THEY CAN DO.
I CAN'T JUST SWIM INTO THE BALL AND **TELL** EVERYONE. THE BEST HEROES TAKE EVERYONE BY **SURPRISE**. THEY **SWOOP IN TO SAVE THE DAY** WHEN ALL HOPE IS LOST.
WAIT FOR THE **PERFECT MOMENT.** REVEAL YOURSELF THEN AND YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE THE HERO.
BUT WHEN THE MOMENT CAME, TURTLE MESSED IT UP, AND THEN IT WAS GONE.

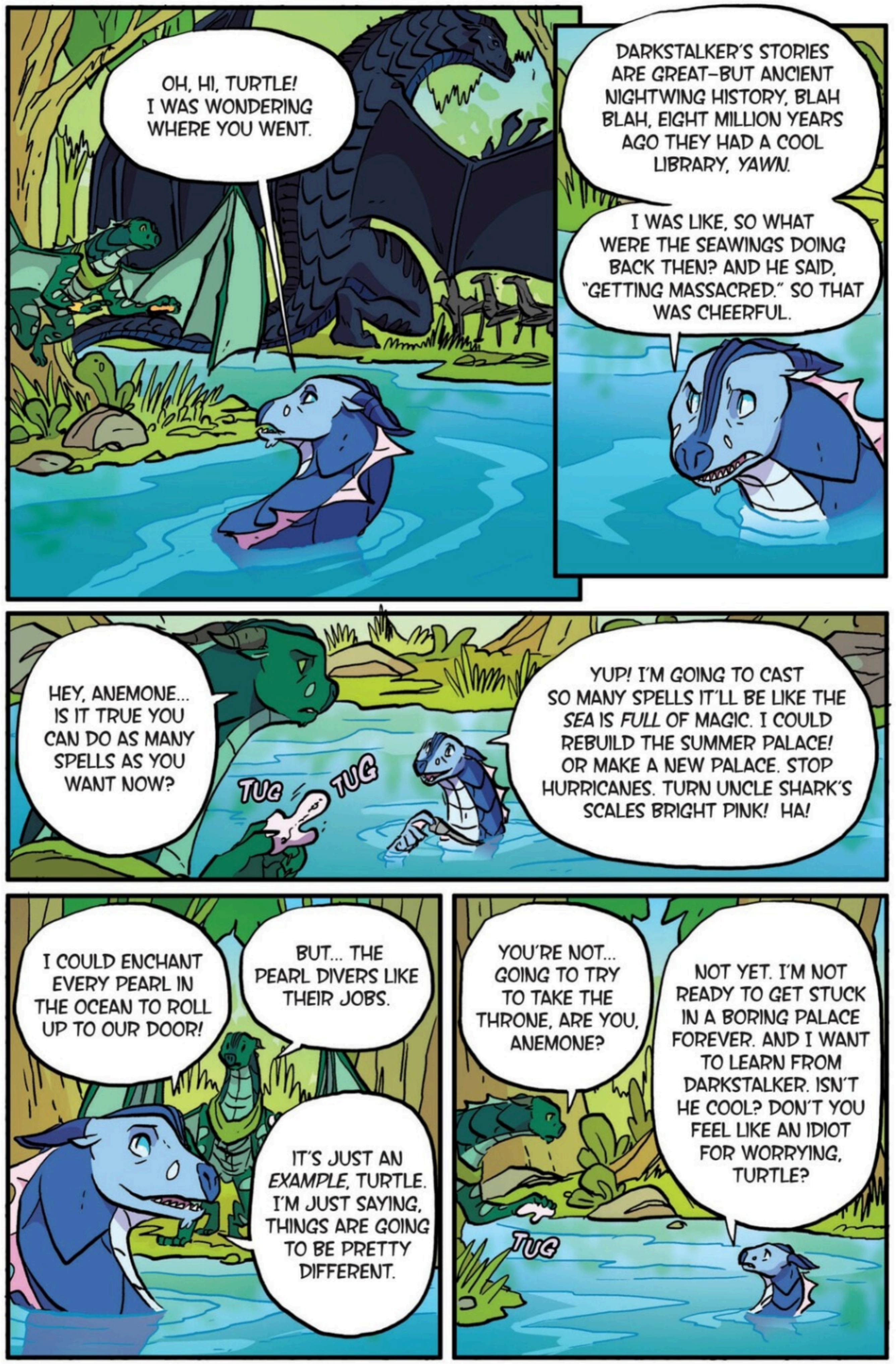

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL.
THE THOUGHT OF FIVE SUPERPOWERED NIGHTWINGS ONLY A SHORT FLIGHT AWAY...
TUG TUG
HALT! WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH THE QUEEN?
UM, I'M HERE WITH PRINCESS ANEMONE. I THOUGHT QUEEN GLORY SHOULD KNOW WHAT DARKSTALKER'S BEEN UP TO.
TUG
TUG
I'M RELUCTANT TO WAKE THE QUEEN DURING HER SUNTIME. IS IT URGENT?
SIGH
DEATHBRINGER, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF EARS? *YOU* WOKE ME UP ALREADY.
"HALT," REALLY? WHO *SAYS* THAT?

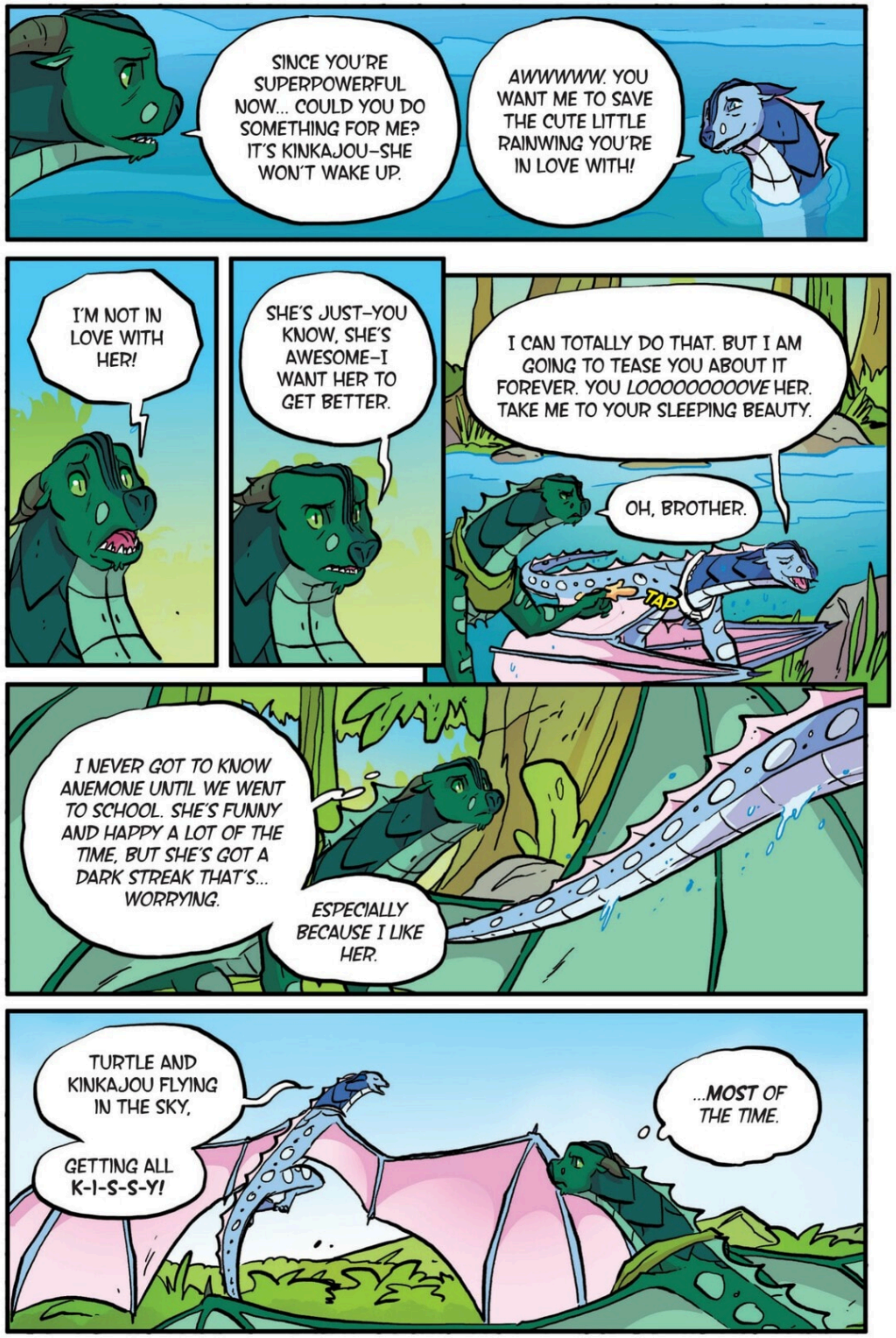

I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED DIGNIFIED AND COMMANDING.
OR LIKE A PRETENTIOUS NIGHTWING.
I *AM* A PRETENTIOUS NIGHTWING!
QUEEN GLORY, I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT DARKSTALKER IS GIVING THE NIGHTWINGS POWERS—MIND READING, SUPERSTRENGTH, HEALING...
WOW. IT'LL BE HARD TO COMPETE WITH *THAT*.
TUG!
TUG!
I WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU, EVEN FOR A SUPERPOWER.
THAT *IS* YOUR SUPERPOWER. EXTREME HEROIC IDIOCY.
WELL, IF ALL THE NIGHTWINGS DECIDE TO GO, I SUPPOSE MY JOB WILL GET EASIER.
I *DID* THINK THE NIGHTWINGS AND RAINWINGS COULD BE GOOD FOR EACH OTHER ONCE THEY'D BUILT SOME MUTUAL TRUST, THOUGH. AH WELL.
WAIT—AREN'T YOU GOING TO TRY TO STOP DARKSTALKER?
WHY WOULD I?
UM... BECAUSE HE'S TURNING HIS TRIBE INTO A SUPER ARMY? DOESN'T THAT WORRY YOU?
TUG
TWITCH
MAYBE IF IT WAS ANYONE ELSE, BUT I TRUST DARKSTALKER—DON'T YOU, DEATHBRINGER?
I DO. I LIKE HIM.

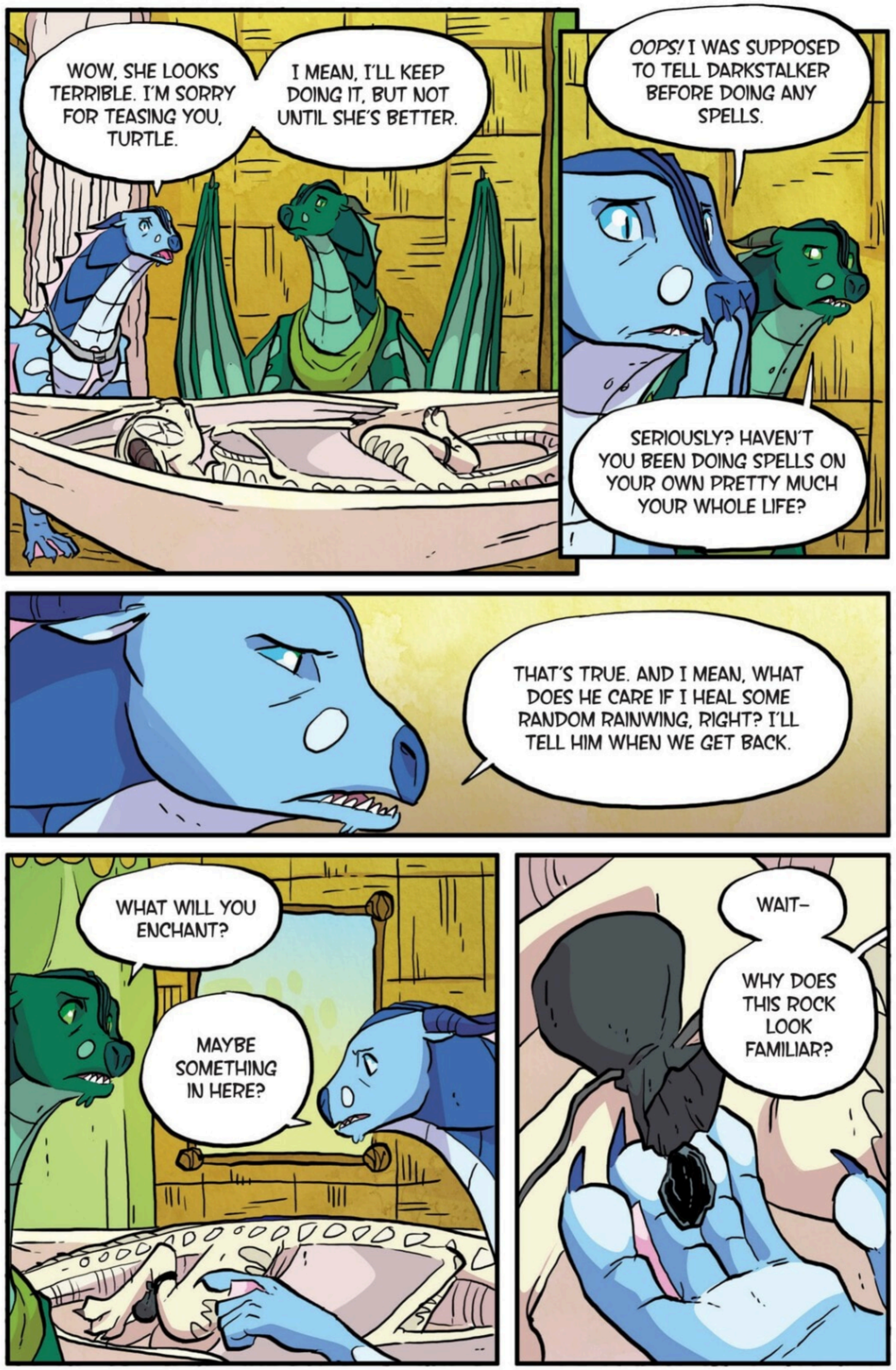

THIS IS NOT A NORMAL REACTION. QIBLI WAS **RIGHT**. DARKSTALKER'S ENCHANTED EVERYONE TO LIKE AND TRUST HIM!
WHAT IF THE ENCHANTMENT FORCES EVERYONE TO OBEY HIM, TOO?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO **DO?** SPEND MY LIFE AS AN INVISIBLE PROPHET OF DOOM?
PROPHET OF DOOM
ha ha
whatever
TUG
TWITCH
BUT WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE? BE THE COWARD WHO SITS AND WAITS FOR THE APOCALYPSE?
I NEED HELP... BUT WHO'S GOING TO LISTEN TO ME?
TUG!
?
WHAT WAS THAT?
TAP!

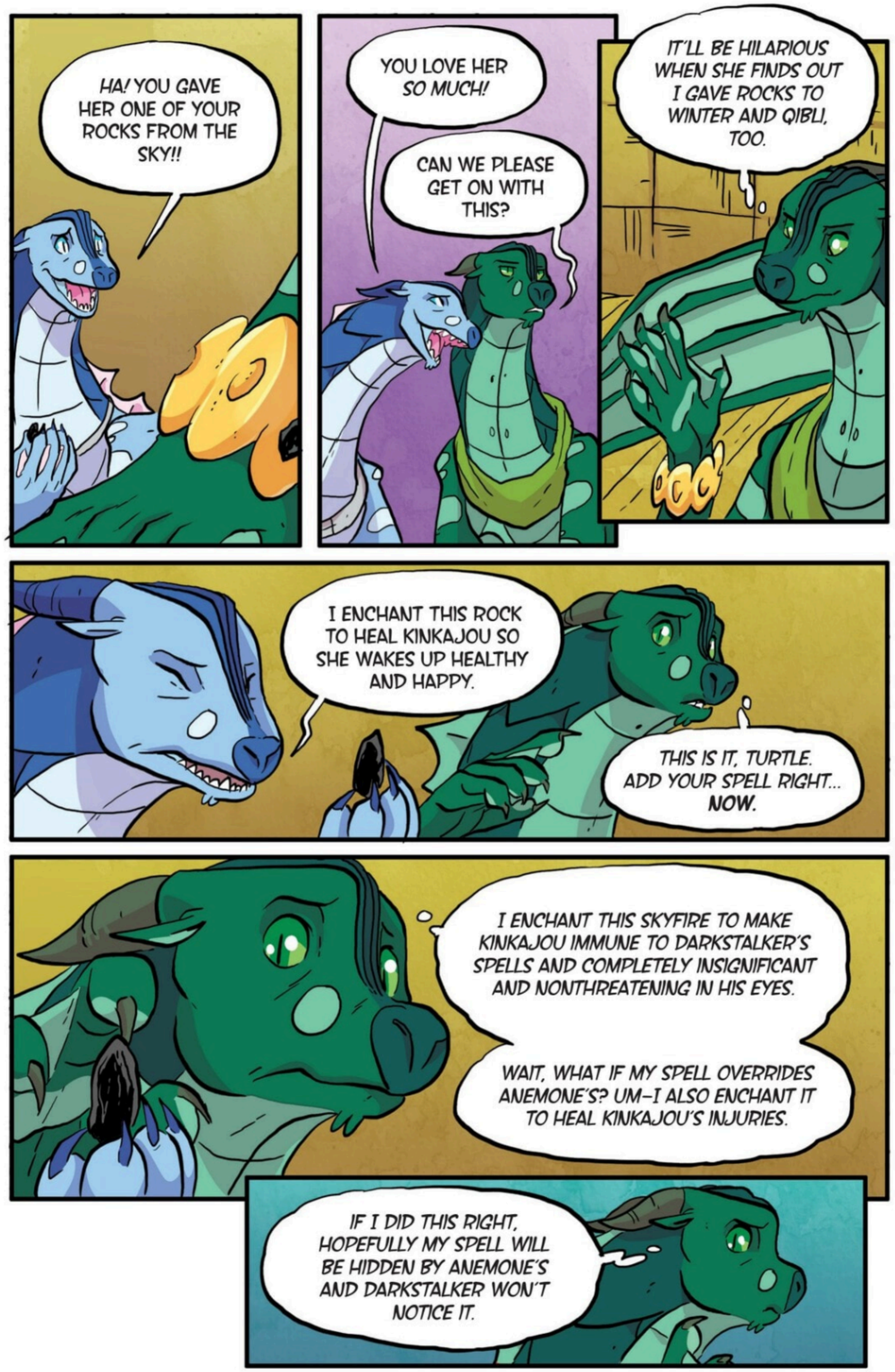

NOTHING! MY TALONS SLIPPED.
WHEN I ENCHANTED THIS THING, I WISH I'D ADDED "AND YOU DON'T NEED TO **TOUCH** WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR."
YOU'RE AN ODD DRAGON, TURTLE.
SO MY FRIENDS TELL ME.
!
YOUR MAJESTY, MAY I ASK–HOW IS KINKAJOU?
OUR HEALERS CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE HASN'T WOKEN. WE ALL HOPED ONCE SHE WAS BACK IN THE RAINFOREST–
IN THE RAINFOREST? SHE'S *HERE?*
OF COURSE. I WOULDN'T LEAVE HER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CONTINENT.
YOU CAN VISIT HER. THE HEALERS' PAVILION IS JUST OVER THERE.

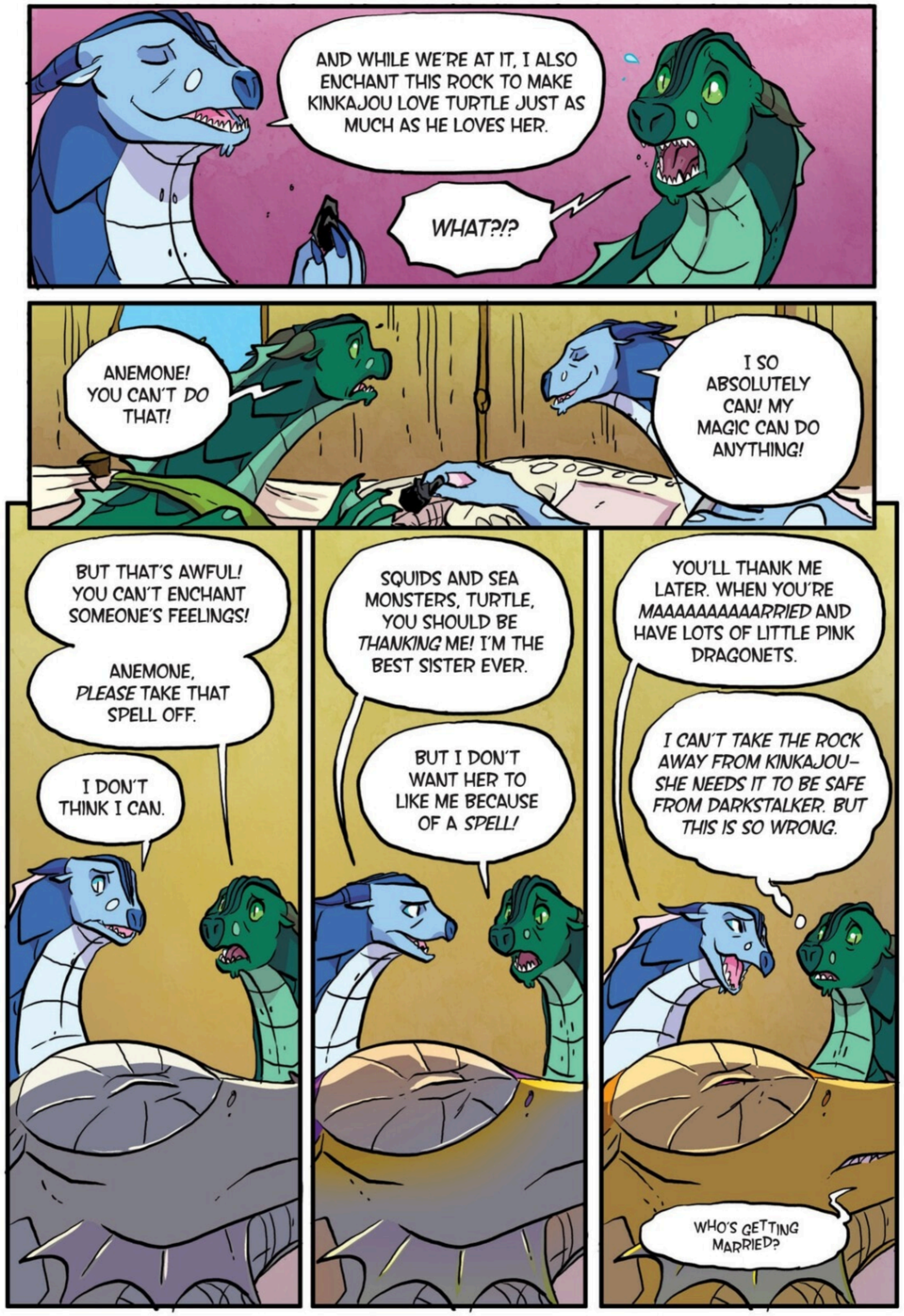

KINKAJOU HASN'T MET DARKSTALKER YET. I CAN TRUST HER WITH MY SECRET. AND SHE'S MUCH MORE CUT OUT FOR HEROISM THAN ME... IF SHE WAKES UP.
I'VE NEVER SEEN KINKAJOU BE STILL LIKE THIS FOR EVEN A MOMENT. IN CLASS, SHE WAS ALWAYS TWITCHING OR FIDGETING OR MAKING SIDEWAYS EXPRESSIONS AT ME OR MOON LIKE: "WHAT DID HE SAY? I KNEW THAT ANSWER! IS IT TIME TO EAT YET; ARE YOU STARVING; I'M STARVING! ISN'T SCHOOL **AMAZING?**"
KINKAJOU, CAN YOU HEAR ME? I NEED YOU TO WAKE UP.
I HALF-EXPECTED THAT TO WORK. LIKE, WELL, IF YOU NEED ME TO, THEN SURE!
IF ONLY I'D BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH TO HEAL HER EARLIER! BUT IF I HAD, SHE'D HAVE MET DARKSTALKER AND BE UNDER HIS SPELL, TOO.
OK. I CAN'T TALK HER AWAKE AND I CAN'T USE MY MAGIC... **WAIT.**
I CAN'T USE **MY** MAGIC, BUT...
ANEMONE.

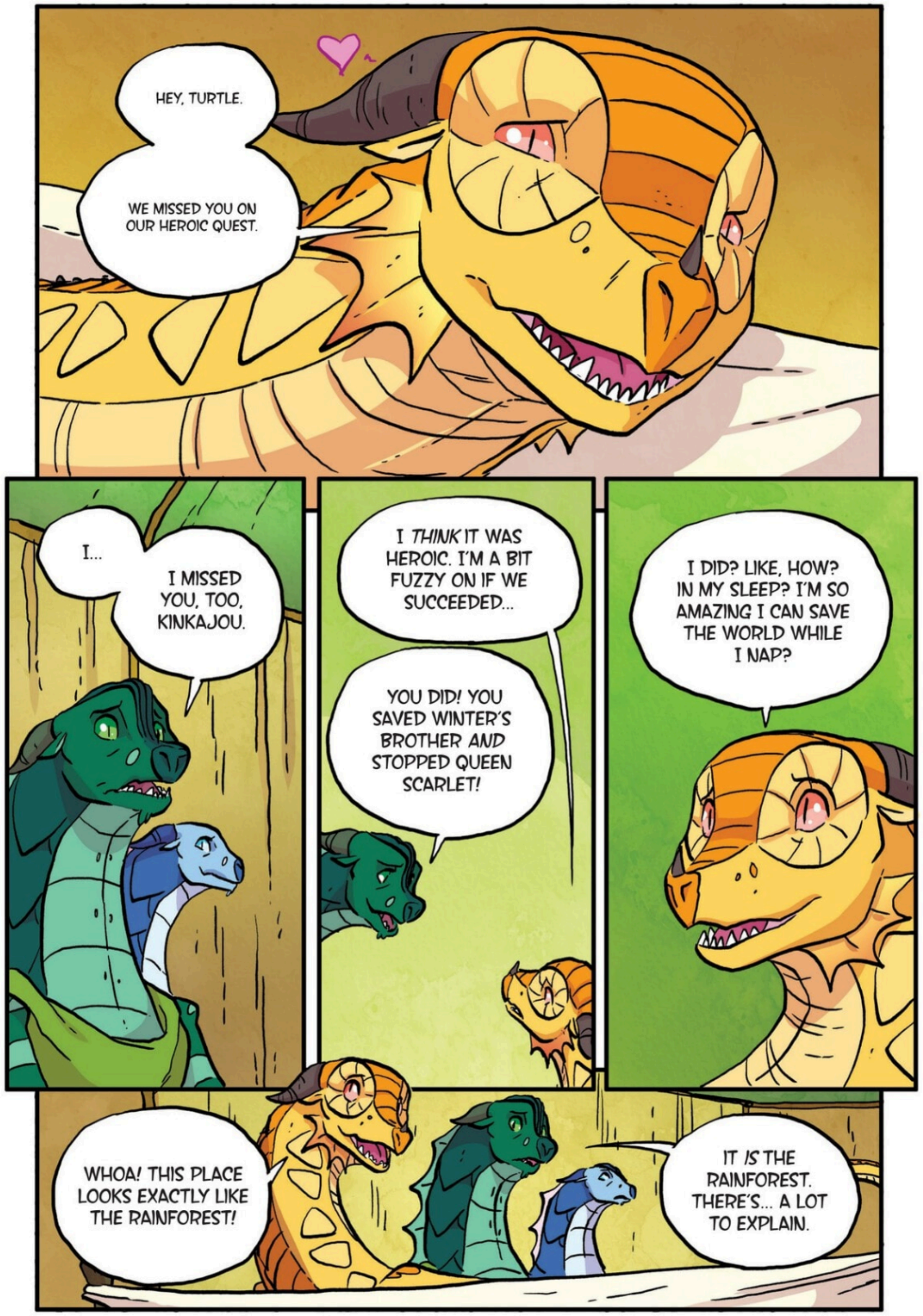

OH, HI, TURTLE! I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU WENT.
DARKSTALKER'S STORIES ARE GREAT—BUT ANCIENT NIGHTWING HISTORY, BLAH BLAH, EIGHT MILLION YEARS AGO THEY HAD A COOL LIBRARY, *YAWN.*
I WAS LIKE, SO WHAT WERE THE SEAWINGS DOING BACK THEN? AND HE SAID, "GETTING MASSACRED." SO THAT WAS CHEERFUL.
HEY, ANEMONE... IS IT TRUE YOU CAN DO AS MANY SPELLS AS YOU WANT NOW?
TUG
TUG
YUP! I'M GOING TO CAST SO MANY SPELLS IT'LL BE LIKE THE *SEA* IS *FULL* OF MAGIC. I COULD REBUILD THE SUMMER PALACE! OR MAKE A NEW PALACE. STOP HURRICANES. TURN UNCLE SHARK'S SCALES BRIGHT PINK! HA!
I COULD ENCHANT EVERY PEARL IN THE OCEAN TO ROLL UP TO OUR DOOR!
BUT... THE PEARL DIVERS LIKE THEIR JOBS.
IT'S JUST AN *EXAMPLE*, TURTLE. I'M JUST SAYING, THINGS ARE GOING TO BE PRETTY DIFFERENT.
YOU'RE NOT... GOING TO TRY TO TAKE THE THRONE, ARE YOU, ANEMONE?
NOT YET. I'M NOT READY TO GET STUCK IN A BORING PALACE FOREVER. AND I WANT TO LEARN FROM DARKSTALKER. ISN'T HE COOL? DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT FOR WORRYING, TURTLE?
TUG

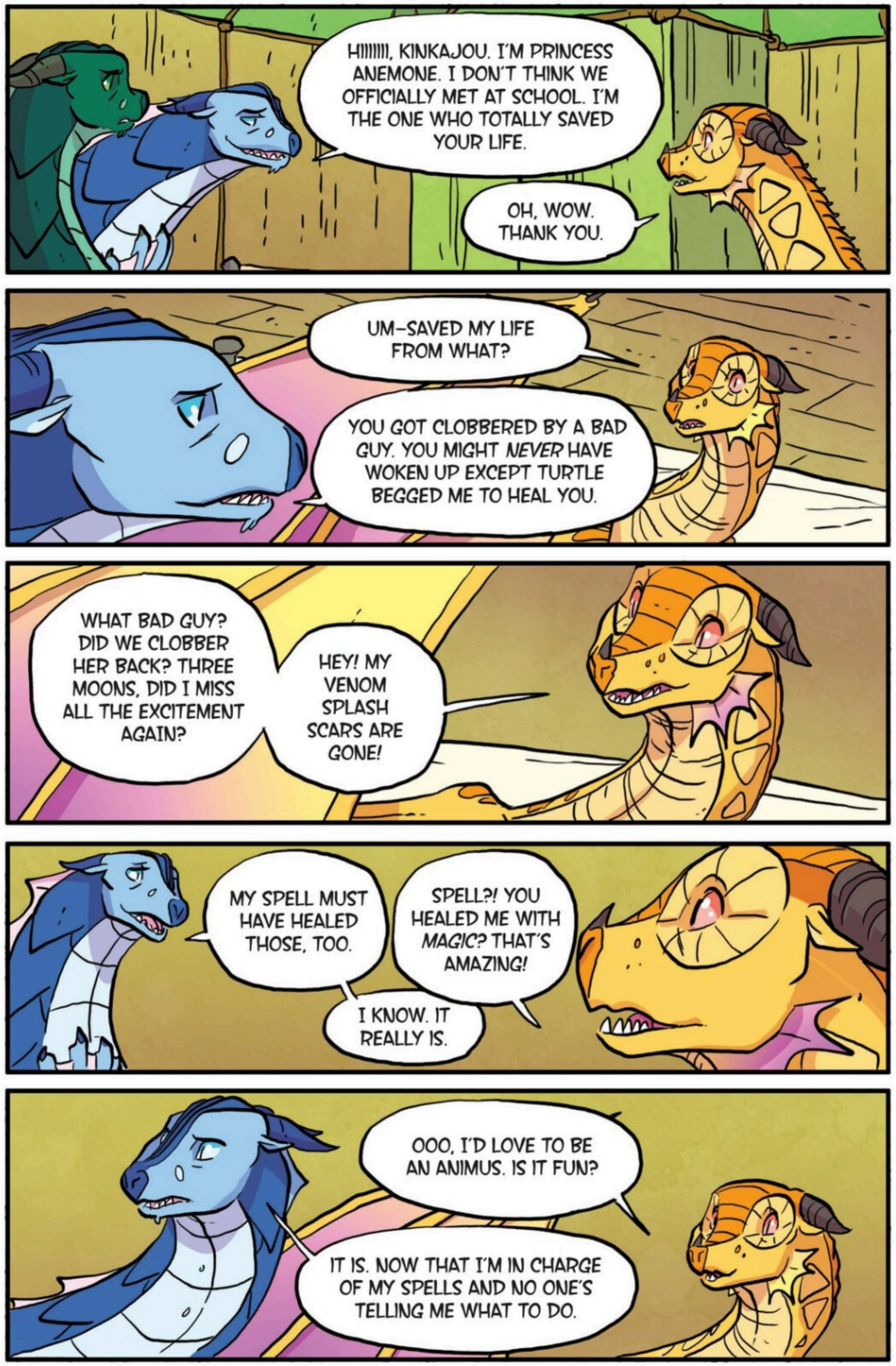

SINCE YOU'RE SUPERPOWERFUL NOW... COULD YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME? IT'S KINKAJOU–SHE WON'T WAKE UP.
AWWWWW. YOU WANT ME TO SAVE THE CUTE LITTLE RAINWING YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH!
I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HER!
SHE'S JUST–YOU KNOW, SHE'S AWESOME–I WANT HER TO GET BETTER.
I CAN TOTALLY DO THAT. BUT I AM GOING TO TEASE YOU ABOUT IT FOREVER. YOU *LOOOOOOOOVE* HER. TAKE ME TO YOUR SLEEPING BEAUTY.
OH, BROTHER.
TAP
I NEVER GOT TO KNOW ANEMONE UNTIL WE WENT TO SCHOOL. SHE'S FUNNY AND HAPPY A LOT OF THE TIME, BUT SHE'S GOT A DARK STREAK THAT'S... WORRYING.
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE I LIKE HER.
TURTLE AND KINKAJOU FLYING IN THE SKY,
GETTING ALL **K-I-S-S-Y!**
*...**MOST** OF THE TIME.*

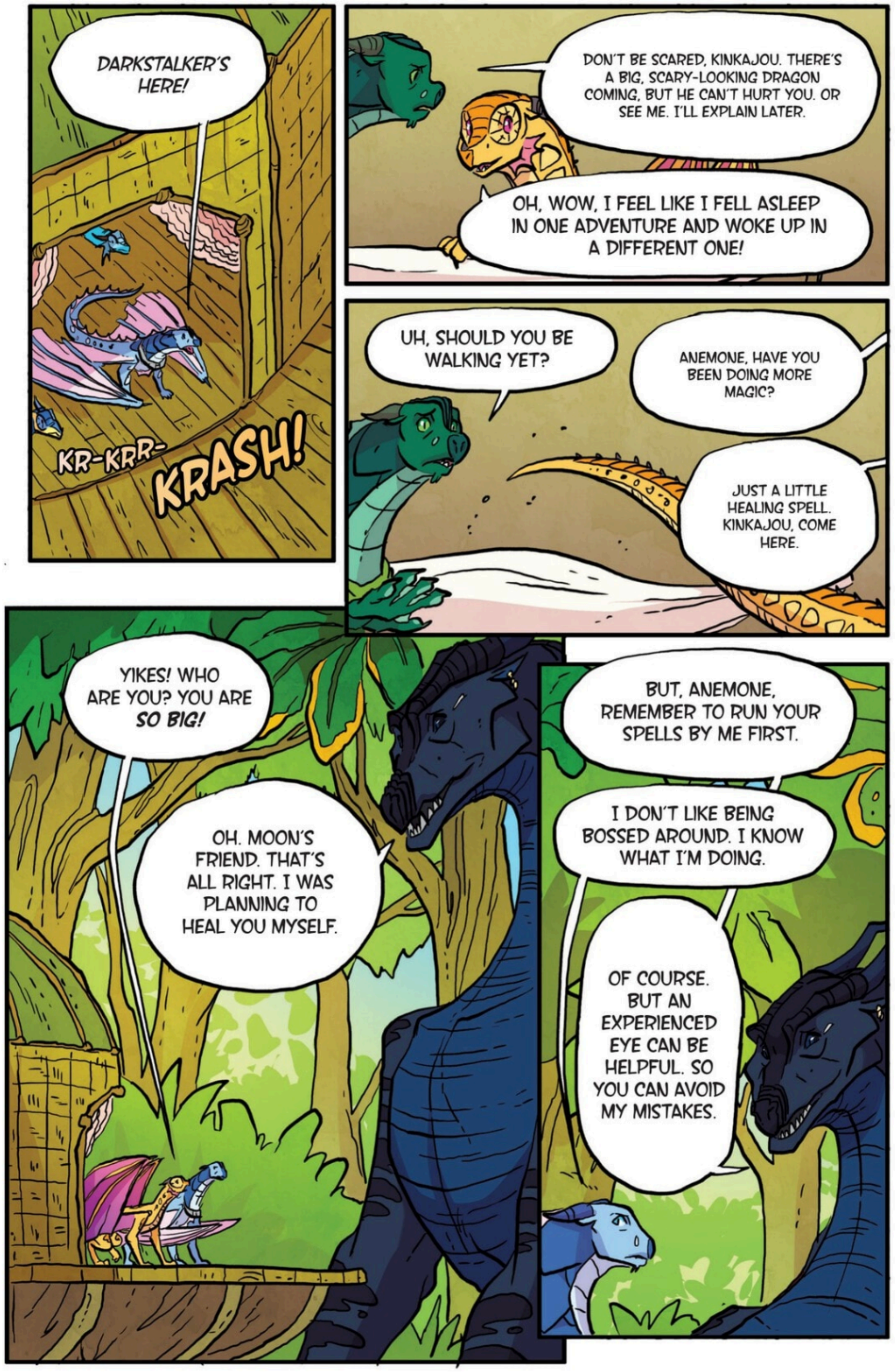

WOW, SHE LOOKS TERRIBLE. I'M SORRY FOR TEASING YOU, TURTLE.
I MEAN, I'LL KEEP DOING IT, BUT NOT UNTIL SHE'S BETTER.
OOPS! I WAS SUPPOSED TO TELL DARKSTALKER BEFORE DOING ANY SPELLS.
SERIOUSLY? HAVEN'T YOU BEEN DOING SPELLS ON YOUR OWN PRETTY MUCH YOUR WHOLE LIFE?
THAT'S TRUE. AND I MEAN, WHAT DOES HE CARE IF I HEAL SOME RANDOM RAINWING, RIGHT? I'LL TELL HIM WHEN WE GET BACK.
WHAT WILL YOU ENCHANT?
MAYBE SOMETHING IN HERE?
WAIT–
WHY DOES THIS ROCK LOOK FAMILIAR?

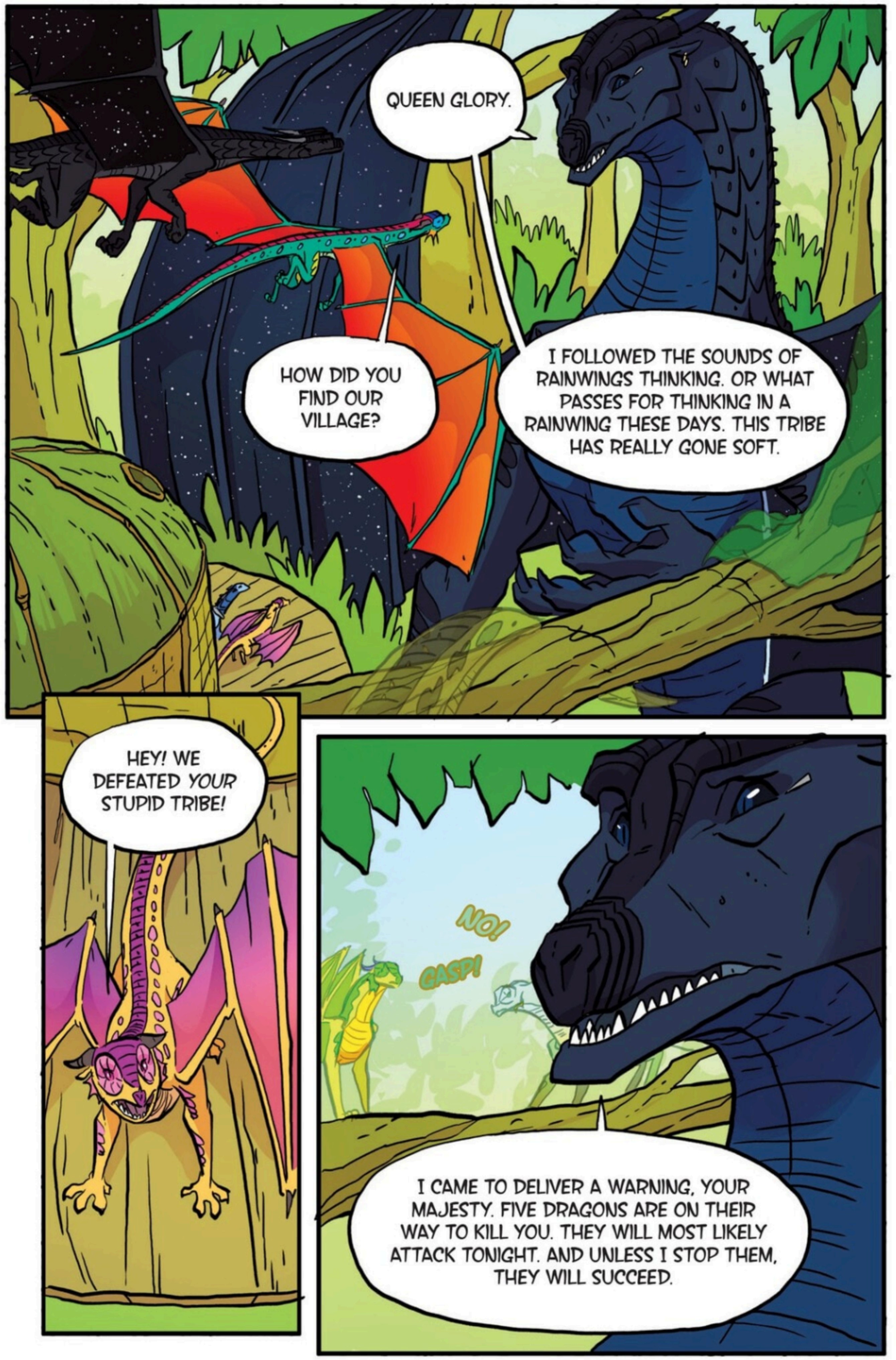

HA! YOU GAVE HER ONE OF YOUR ROCKS FROM THE SKY!!
YOU LOVE HER SO MUCH!
CAN WE PLEASE GET ON WITH THIS?
IT'LL BE HILARIOUS WHEN SHE FINDS OUT I GAVE ROCKS TO WINTER AND QIBLI, TOO.
I ENCHANT THIS ROCK TO HEAL KINKAJOU SO SHE WAKES UP HEALTHY AND HAPPY.
THIS IS IT, TURTLE. ADD YOUR SPELL RIGHT... NOW.
I ENCHANT THIS SKYFIRE TO MAKE KINKAJOU IMMUNE TO DARKSTALKER'S SPELLS AND COMPLETELY INSIGNIFICANT AND NONTHREATENING IN HIS EYES.
WAIT, WHAT IF MY SPELL OVERRIDES ANEMONE'S? UM—I ALSO ENCHANT IT TO HEAL KINKAJOU'S INJURIES.
IF I DID THIS RIGHT, HOPEFULLY MY SPELL WILL BE HIDDEN BY ANEMONE'S AND DARKSTALKER WON'T NOTICE IT.

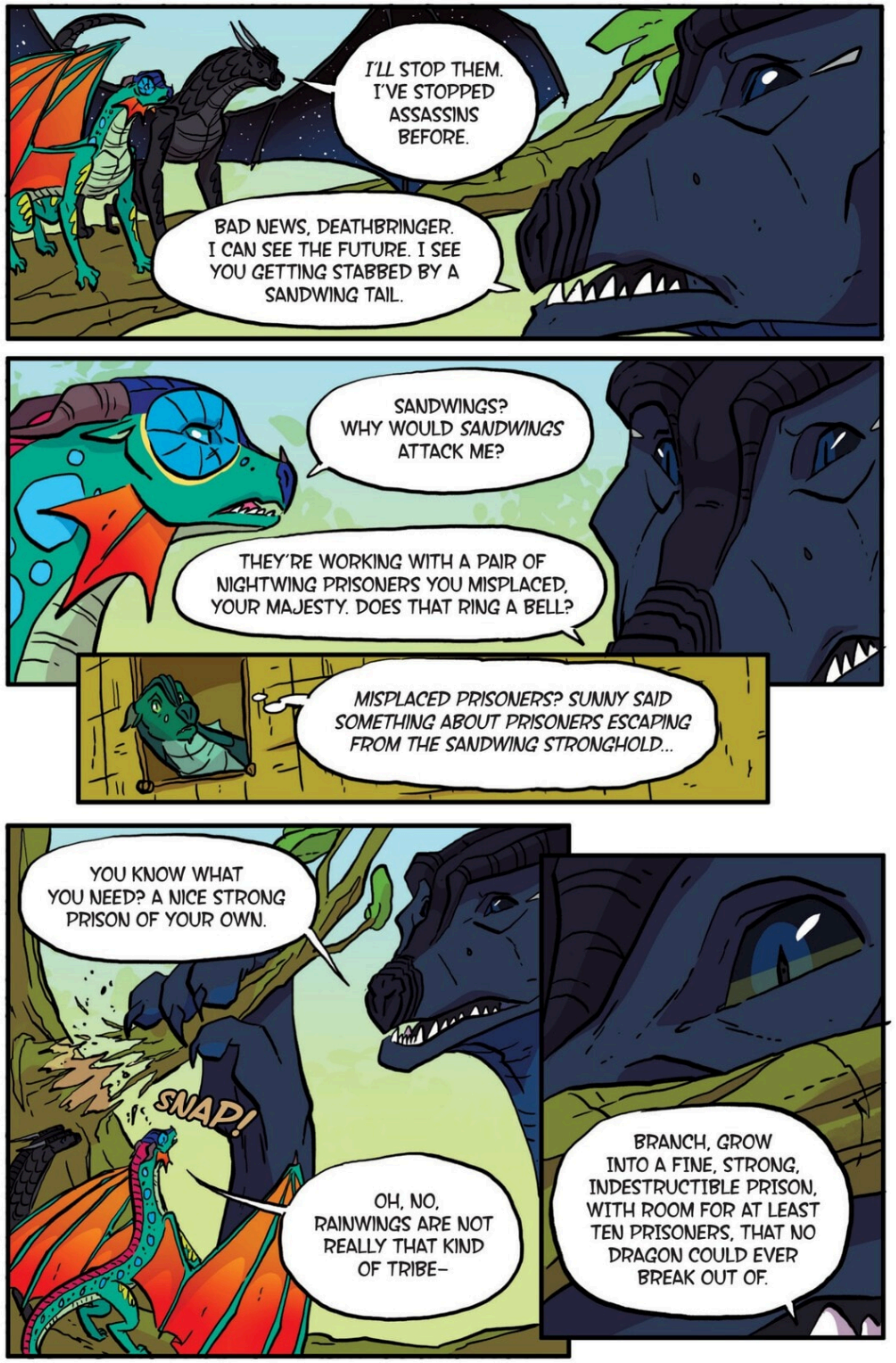

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, I ALSO ENCHANT THIS ROCK TO MAKE KINKAJOU LOVE TURTLE JUST AS MUCH AS HE LOVES HER.
WHAT?!?
ANEMONE! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
I SO ABSOLUTELY CAN! MY MAGIC CAN DO ANYTHING!
BUT THAT'S AWFUL! YOU CAN'T ENCHANT SOMEONE'S FEELINGS!
ANEMONE, PLEASE TAKE THAT SPELL OFF.
I DON'T THINK I CAN.
SQUIDS AND SEA MONSTERS, TURTLE, YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME! I'M THE BEST SISTER EVER.
BUT I DON'T WANT HER TO LIKE ME BECAUSE OF A SPELL!
YOU'LL THANK ME LATER. WHEN YOU'RE MAAAAAAAAAARRIED AND HAVE LOTS OF LITTLE PINK DRAGONETS.
I CAN'T TAKE THE ROCK AWAY FROM KINKAJOU—SHE NEEDS IT TO BE SAFE FROM DARKSTALKER. BUT THIS IS SO WRONG.
WHO'S GETTING MARRIED?

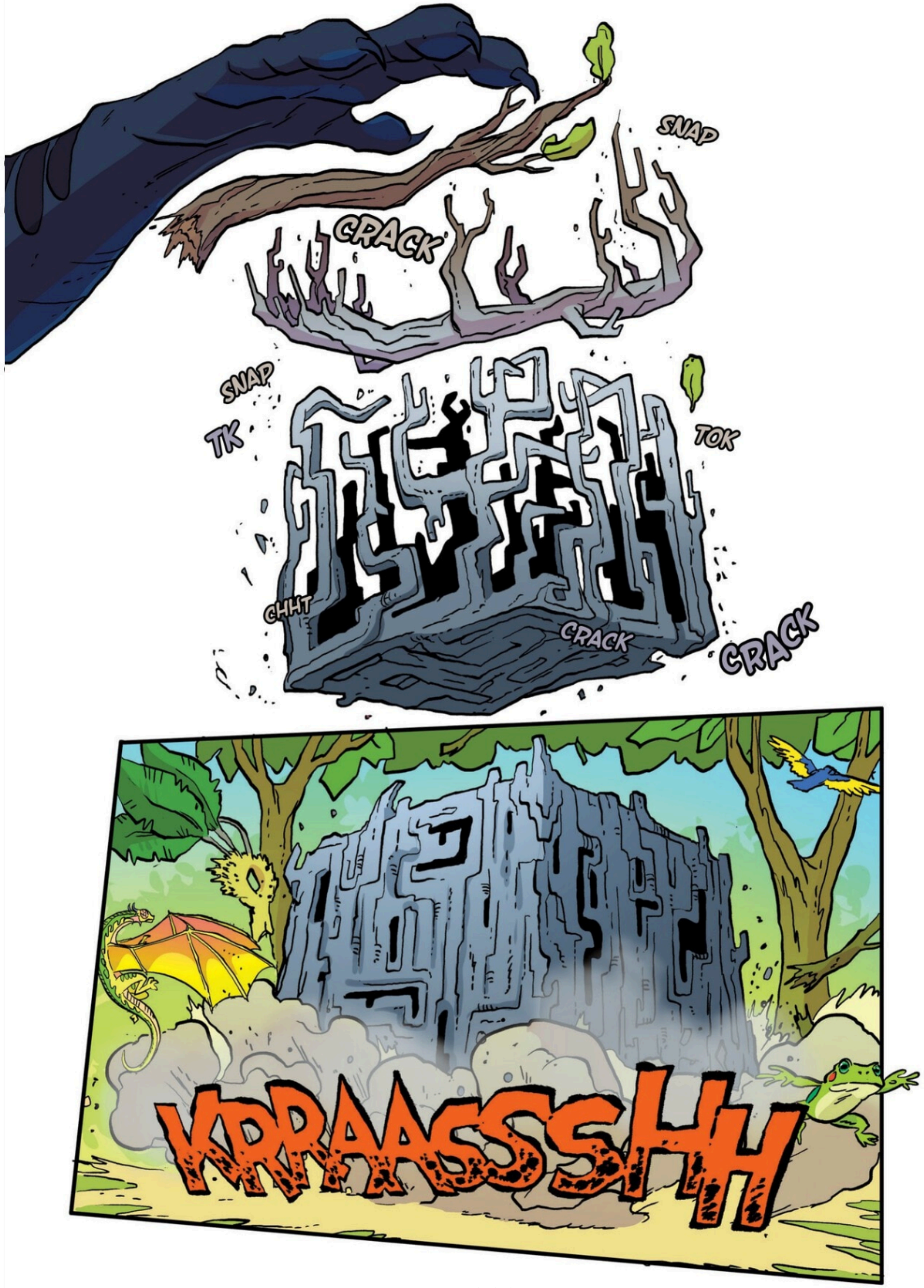

HEY, TURTLE.
WE MISSED YOU ON OUR HEROIC QUEST.
I...
I MISSED YOU, TOO, KINKAJOU.
I *THINK* IT WAS HEROIC. I'M A BIT FUZZY ON IF WE SUCCEEDED...
YOU DID! YOU SAVED WINTER'S BROTHER AND STOPPED QUEEN SCARLET!
I DID? LIKE, HOW? IN MY SLEEP? I'M SO AMAZING I CAN SAVE THE WORLD WHILE I NAP?
WHOA! THIS PLACE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE RAINFOREST!
IT *IS* THE RAINFOREST. THERE'S... A LOT TO EXPLAIN.

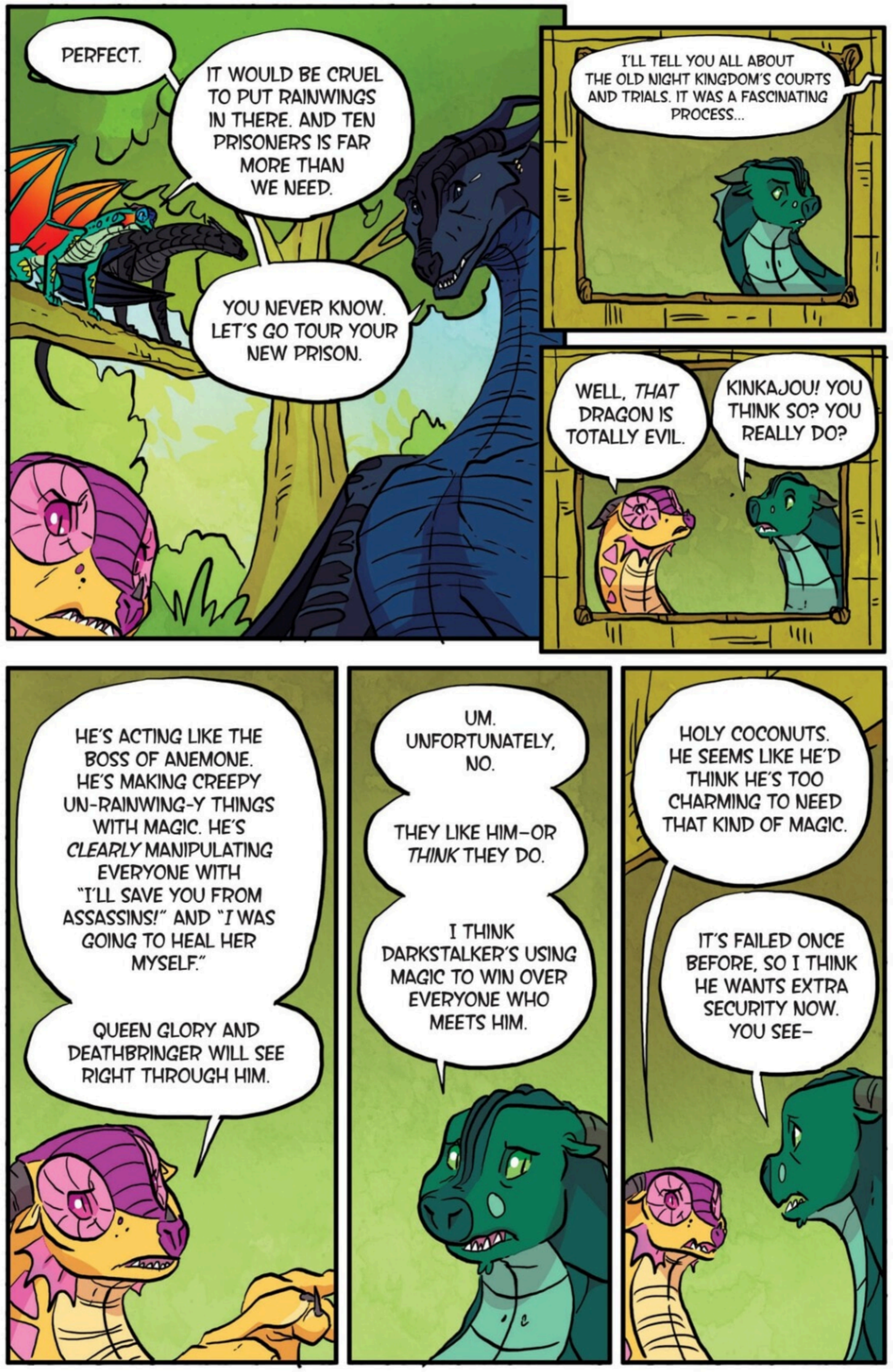

HIIIIIII, KINKAJOU. I'M PRINCESS ANEMONE. I DON'T THINK WE OFFICIALLY MET AT SCHOOL. I'M THE ONE WHO TOTALLY SAVED YOUR LIFE.
OH, WOW. THANK YOU.
UM—SAVED MY LIFE FROM WHAT?
YOU GOT CLOBBERED BY A BAD GUY. YOU MIGHT *NEVER* HAVE WOKEN UP EXCEPT TURTLE BEGGED ME TO HEAL YOU.
WHAT BAD GUY? DID WE CLOBBER HER BACK? THREE MOONS, DID I MISS ALL THE EXCITEMENT AGAIN?
HEY! MY VENOM SPLASH SCARS ARE GONE!
MY SPELL MUST HAVE HEALED THOSE, TOO.
SPELL?! YOU HEALED ME WITH *MAGIC*? THAT'S AMAZING!
I KNOW. IT REALLY IS.
OOO, I'D LOVE TO BE AN ANIMUS. IS IT FUN?
IT IS. NOW THAT I'M IN CHARGE OF MY SPELLS AND NO ONE'S TELLING ME WHAT TO DO.

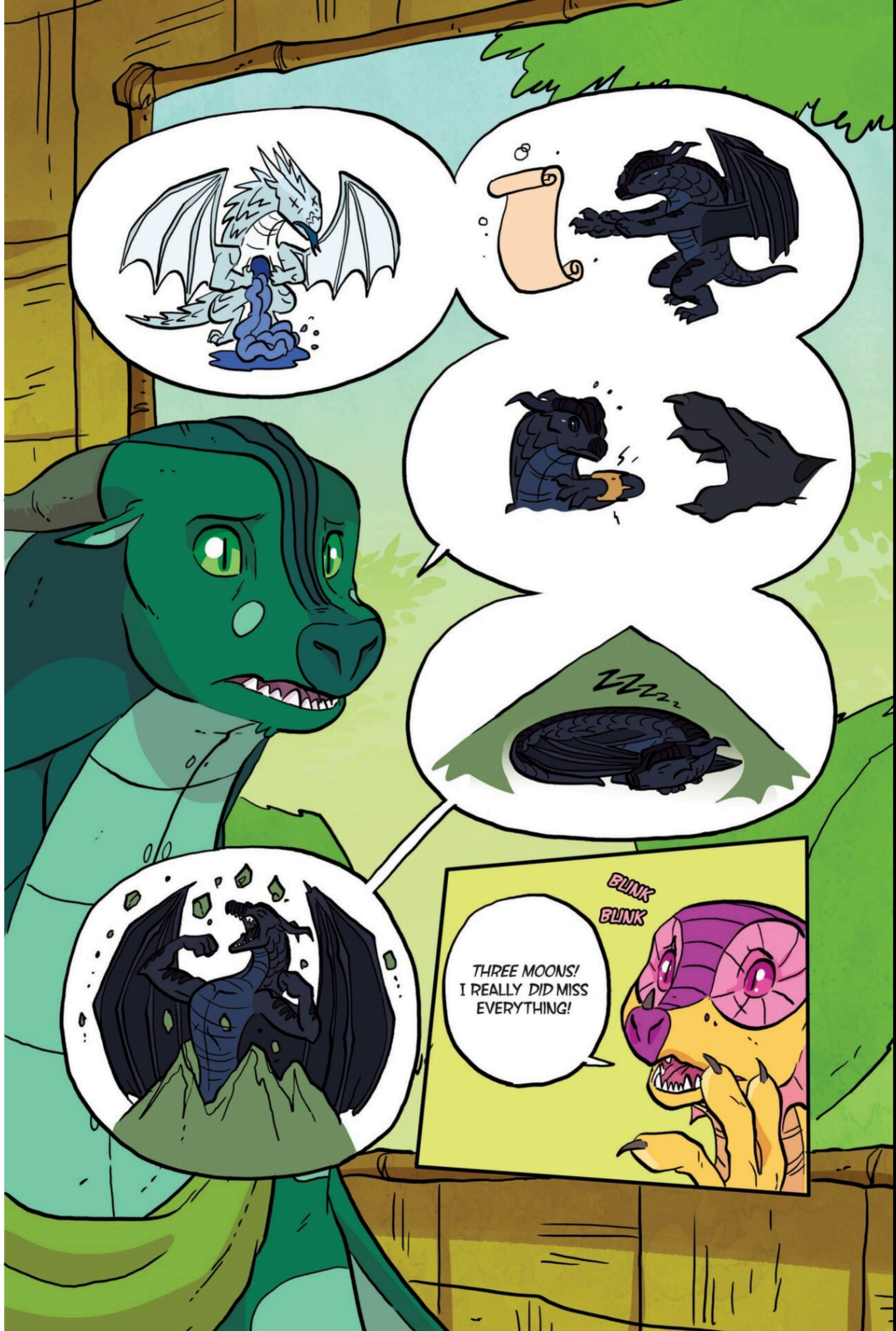

DARKSTALKER'S HERE!
KR-KRR-KRASH!
DON'T BE SCARED, KINKAJOU. THERE'S A BIG, SCARY-LOOKING DRAGON COMING, BUT HE CAN'T HURT YOU. OR SEE ME. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
OH, WOW, I FEEL LIKE I FELL ASLEEP IN ONE ADVENTURE AND WOKE UP IN A DIFFERENT ONE!
UH, SHOULD YOU BE WALKING YET?
ANEMONE, HAVE YOU BEEN DOING MORE MAGIC?
JUST A LITTLE HEALING SPELL. KINKAJOU, COME HERE.
YIKES! WHO ARE YOU? YOU ARE SO BIG!
OH. MOON'S FRIEND. THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I WAS PLANNING TO HEAL YOU MYSELF.
BUT, ANEMONE, REMEMBER TO RUN YOUR SPELLS BY ME FIRST.
I DON'T LIKE BEING BOSSED AROUND. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
OF COURSE. BUT AN EXPERIENCED EYE CAN BE HELPFUL. SO YOU CAN AVOID MY MISTAKES.

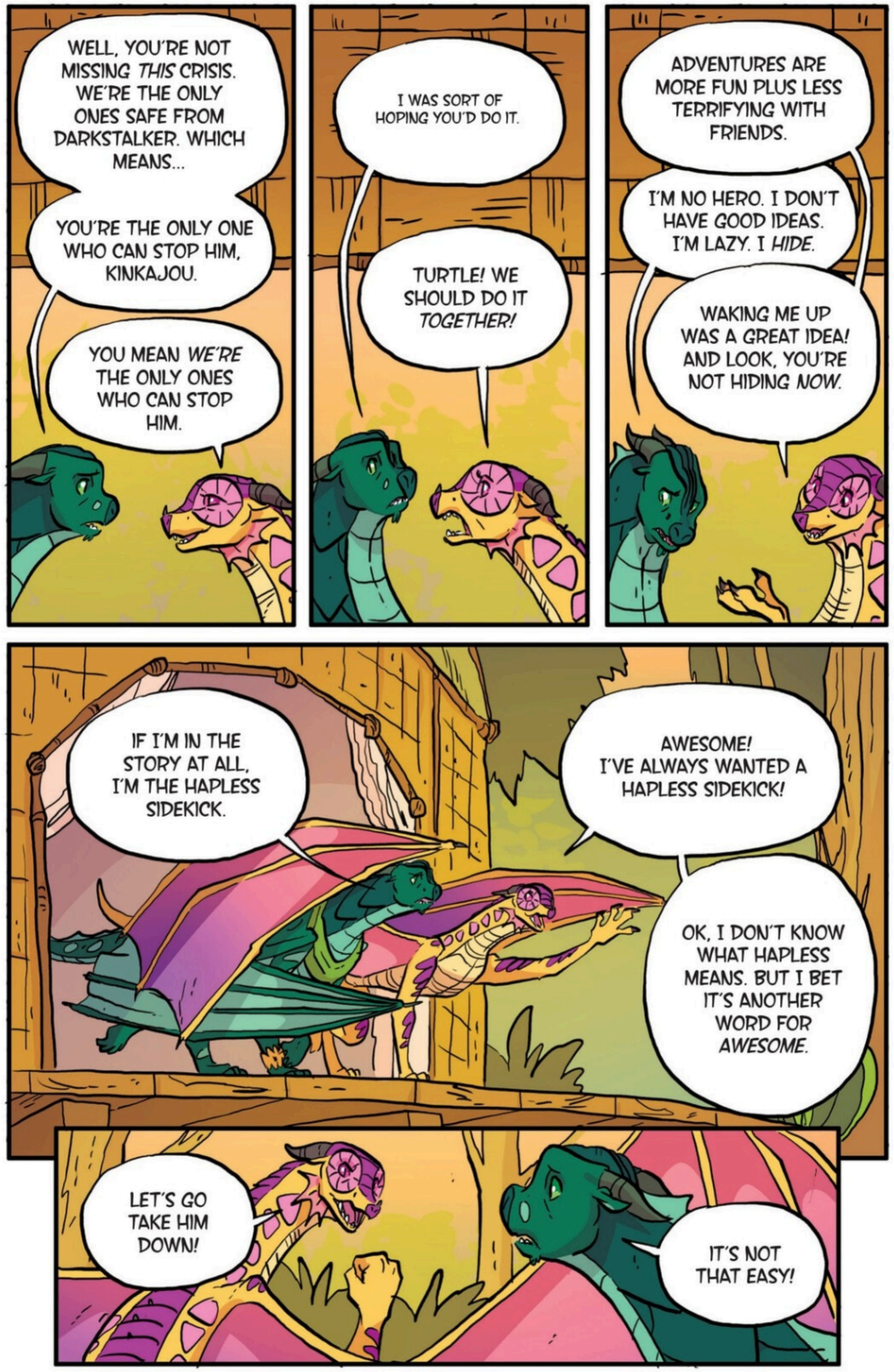

QUEEN GLORY.
HOW DID YOU FIND OUR VILLAGE?
I FOLLOWED THE SOUNDS OF RAINWINGS THINKING. OR WHAT PASSES FOR THINKING IN A RAINWING THESE DAYS. THIS TRIBE HAS REALLY GONE SOFT.
HEY! WE DEFEATED YOUR STUPID TRIBE!
NO!
GASP!
I CAME TO DELIVER A WARNING, YOUR MAJESTY. FIVE DRAGONS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO KILL YOU. THEY WILL MOST LIKELY ATTACK TONIGHT. AND UNLESS I STOP THEM, THEY WILL SUCCEED.

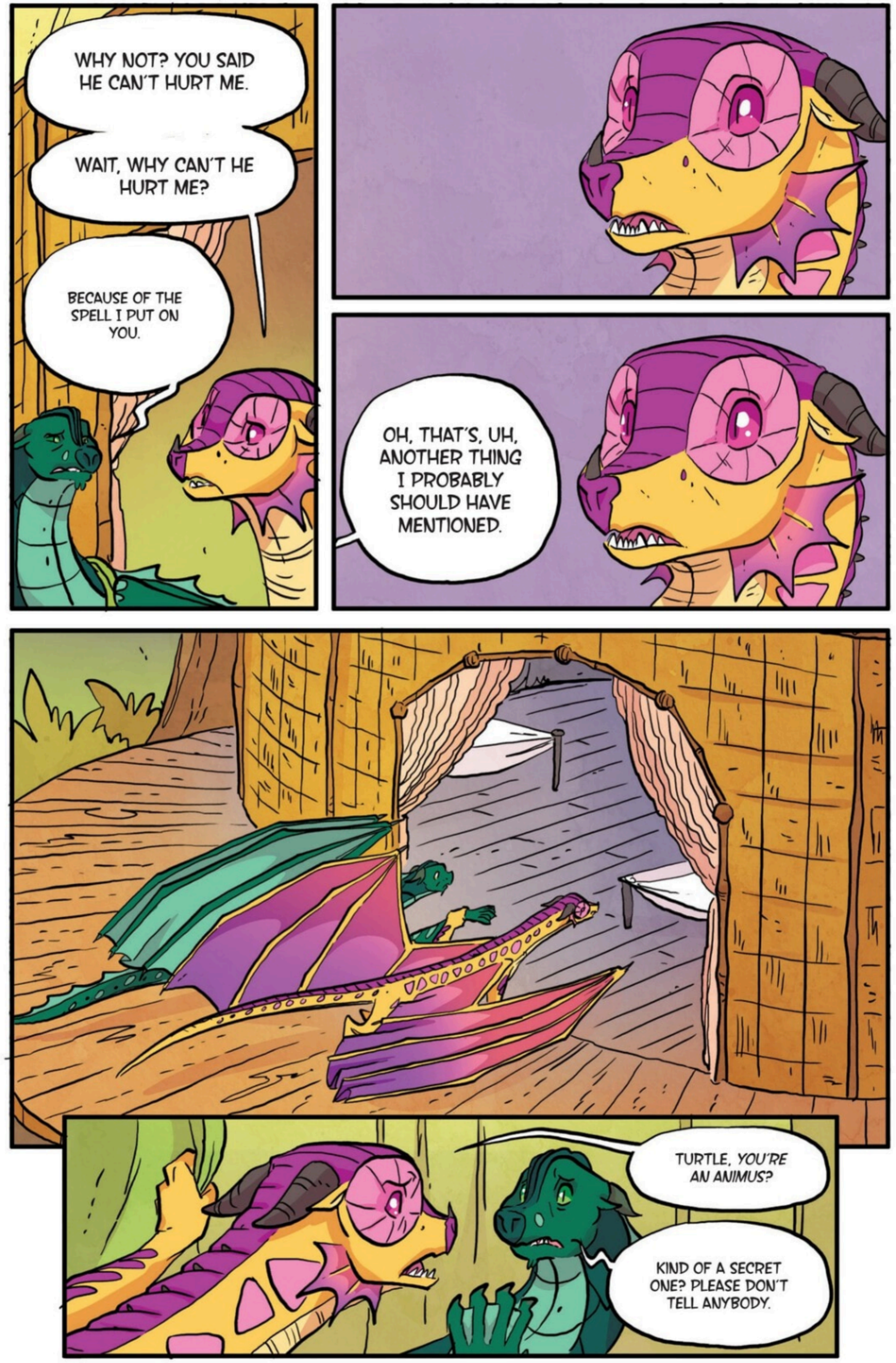

I'LL STOP THEM. I'VE STOPPED ASSASSINS BEFORE.
BAD NEWS, DEATHBRINGER. I CAN SEE THE FUTURE. I SEE YOU GETTING STABBED BY A SANDWING TAIL.
SANDWINGS? WHY WOULD *SANDWINGS* ATTACK ME?
THEY'RE WORKING WITH A PAIR OF NIGHTWING PRISONERS YOU MISPLACED, YOUR MAJESTY. DOES THAT RING A BELL?
MISPLACED PRISONERS? SUNNY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT PRISONERS ESCAPING FROM THE SANDWING STRONGHOLD...
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED? A NICE STRONG PRISON OF YOUR OWN.
SNAP!
OH, NO, RAINWINGS ARE NOT REALLY THAT KIND OF TRIBE–
BRANCH, GROW INTO A FINE, STRONG, INDESTRUCTIBLE PRISON, WITH ROOM FOR AT LEAST TEN PRISONERS, THAT NO DRAGON COULD EVER BREAK OUT OF.

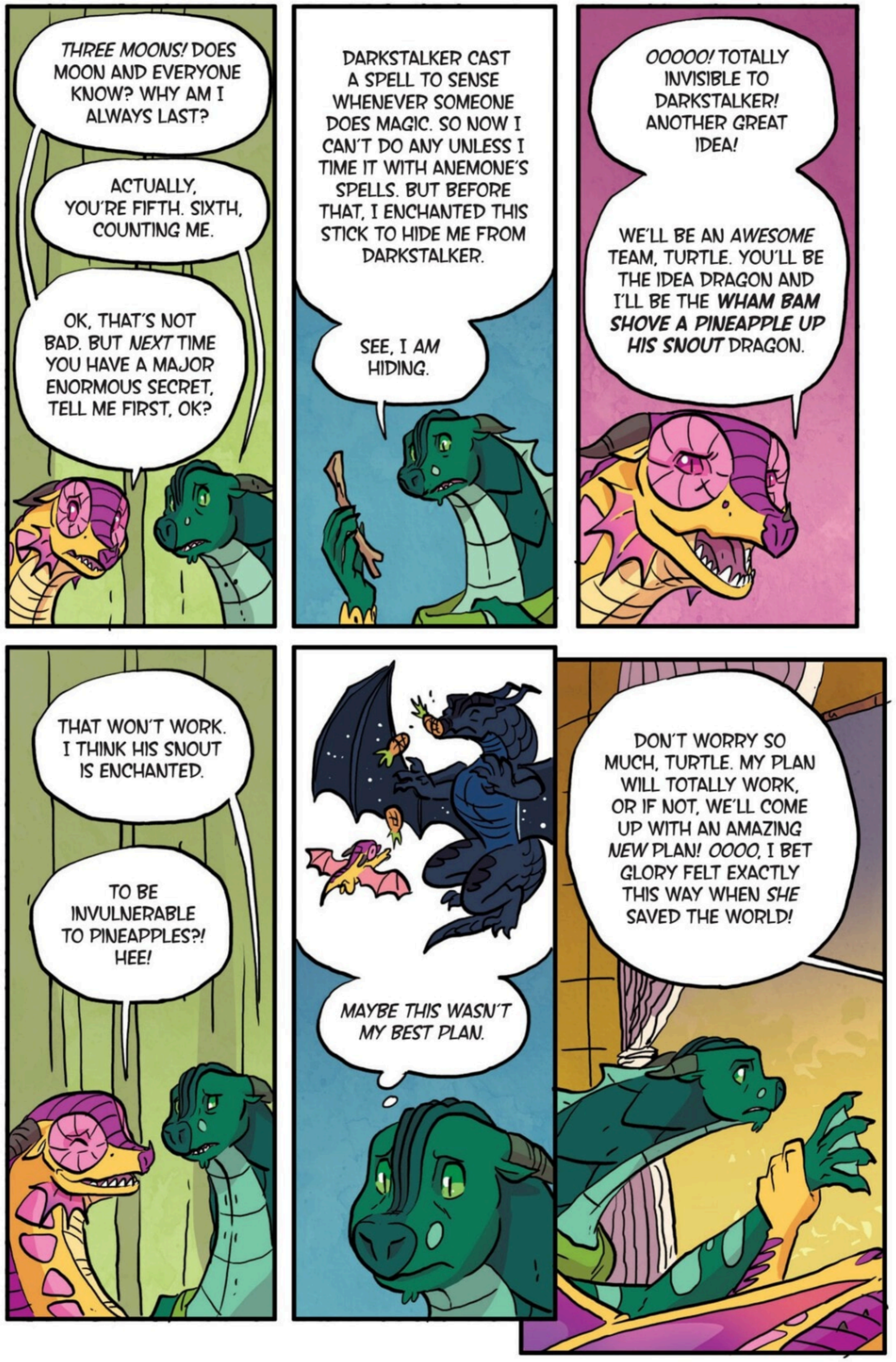

SNAP
CRACK
SNAP
TK
TOK
CHHT
CRACK
CRACK
KRRAASSSHH

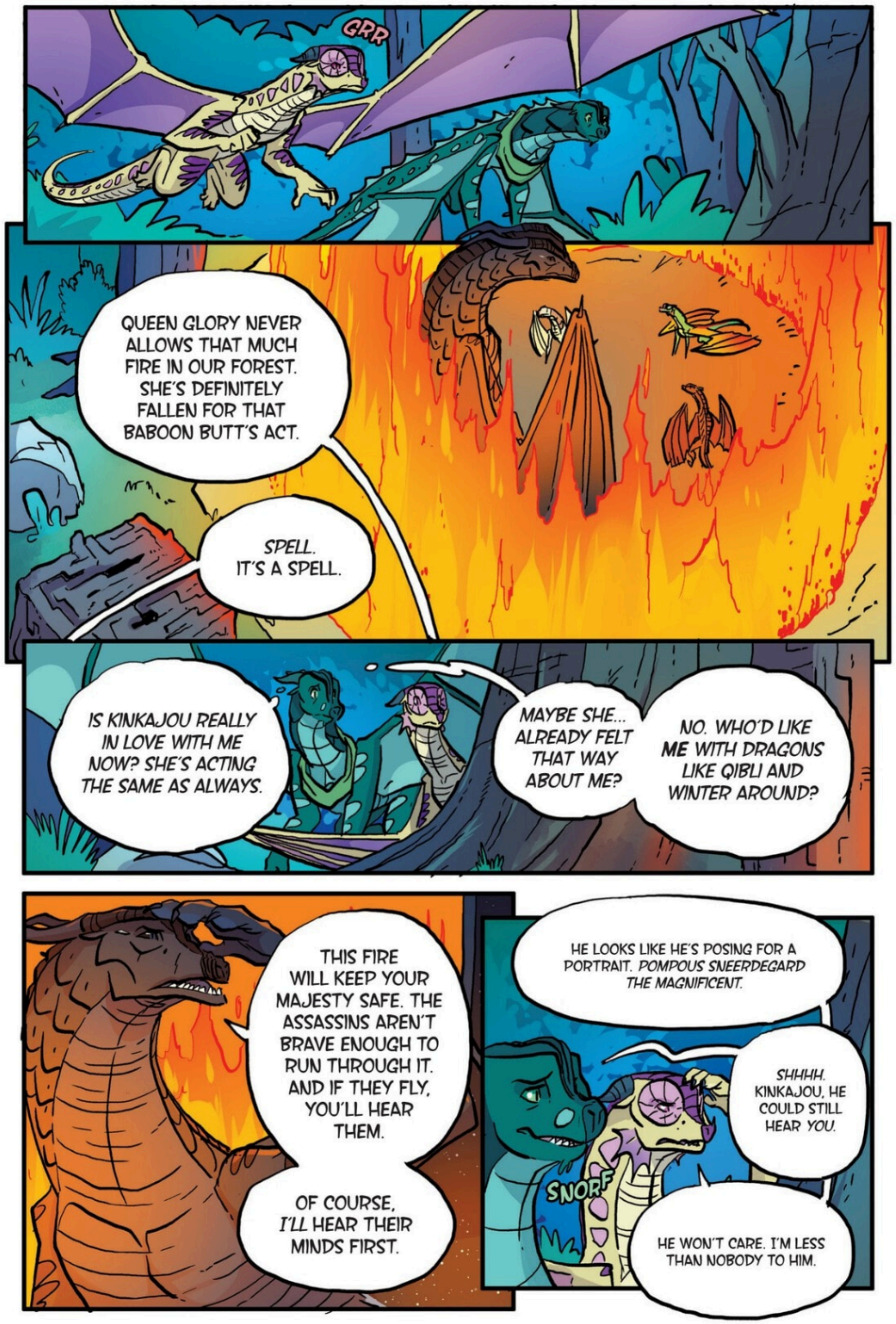

PERFECT.
IT WOULD BE CRUEL TO PUT RAINWINGS IN THERE. AND TEN PRISONERS IS FAR MORE THAN WE NEED.
YOU NEVER KNOW. LET'S GO TOUR YOUR NEW PRISON.
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE OLD NIGHT KINGDOM'S COURTS AND TRIALS. IT WAS A FASCINATING PROCESS...
WELL, *THAT* DRAGON IS TOTALLY EVIL.
KINKAJOU! YOU THINK SO? YOU REALLY DO?
HE'S ACTING LIKE THE BOSS OF ANEMONE. HE'S MAKING CREEPY UN-RAINWING-Y THINGS WITH MAGIC. HE'S *CLEARLY* MANIPULATING EVERYONE WITH "I'LL SAVE YOU FROM ASSASSINS!" AND "*I* WAS GOING TO HEAL HER MYSELF."
QUEEN GLORY AND DEATHBRINGER WILL SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM.
UM. UNFORTUNATELY, NO.
THEY LIKE HIM—OR *THINK* THEY DO.
I THINK DARKSTALKER'S USING MAGIC TO WIN OVER EVERYONE WHO MEETS HIM.
HOLY COCONUTS. HE SEEMS LIKE HE'D THINK HE'S TOO CHARMING TO NEED THAT KIND OF MAGIC.
IT'S FAILED ONCE BEFORE, SO I THINK HE WANTS EXTRA SECURITY NOW. YOU SEE—

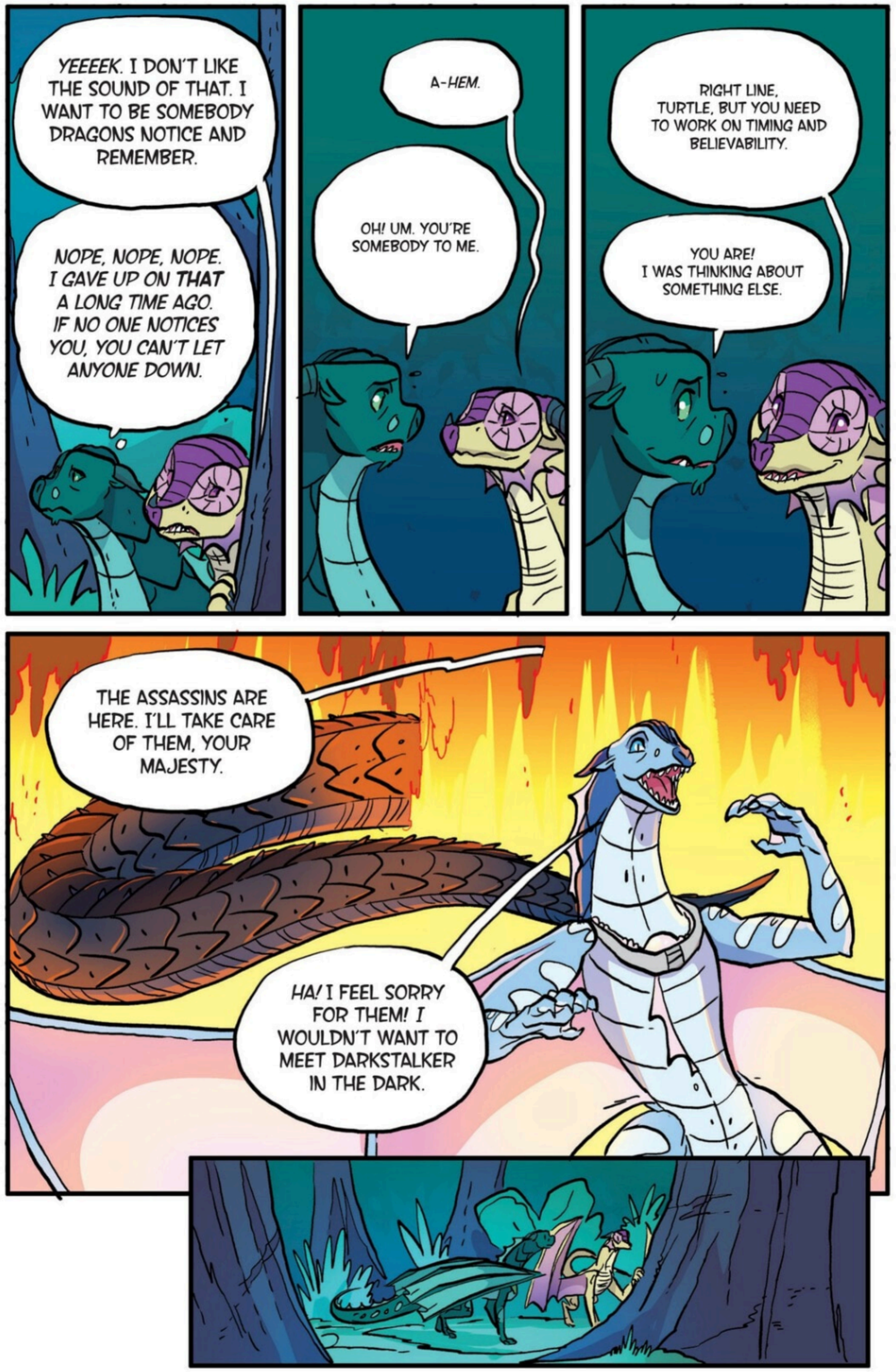

ZZZzzz
BLINK
BLINK
THREE MOONS! I REALLY *DID* MISS EVERYTHING!

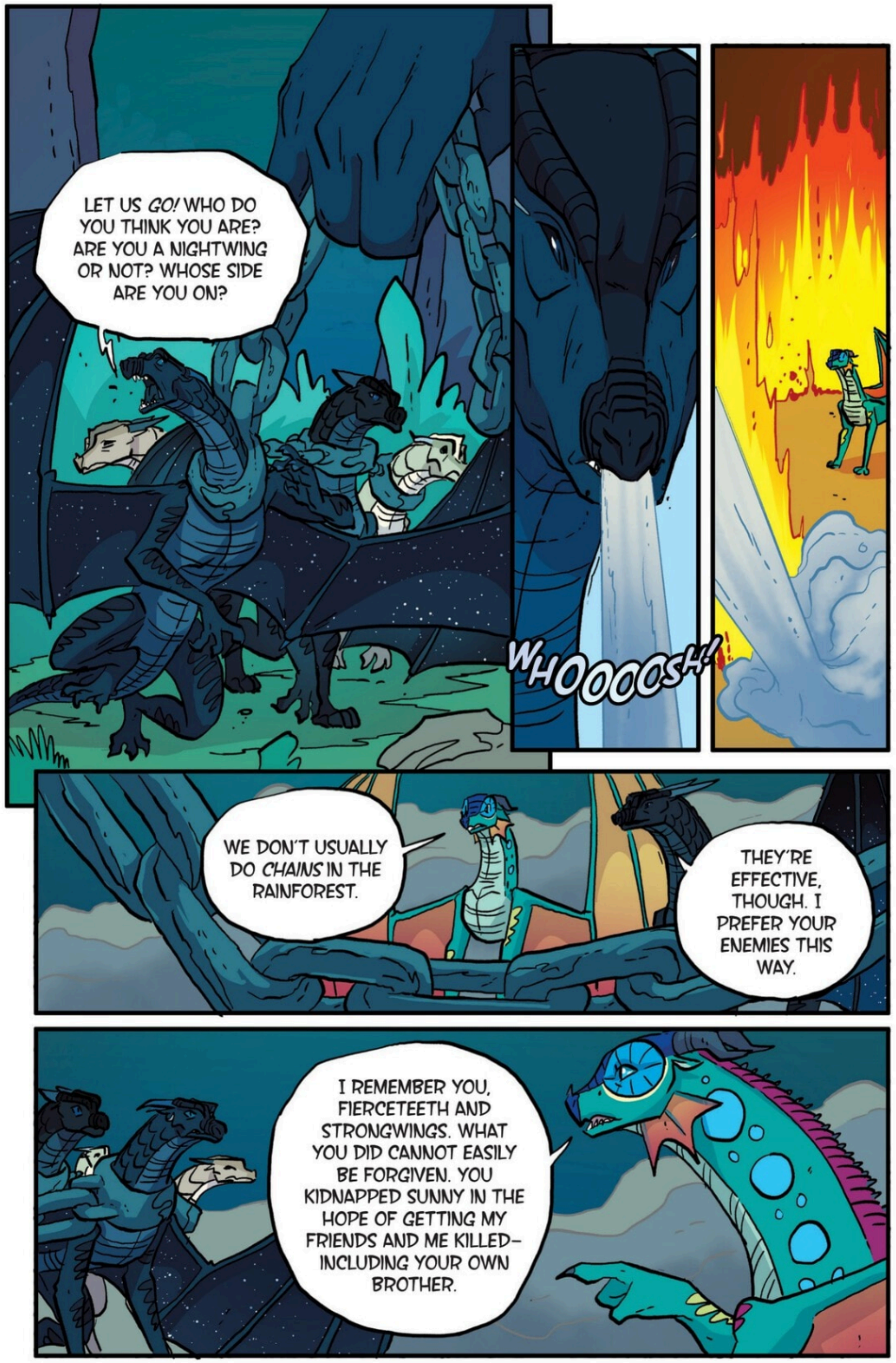

WELL, YOU'RE NOT MISSING *THIS* CRISIS. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES SAFE FROM DARKSTALKER. WHICH MEANS...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP HIM, KINKAJOU.
YOU MEAN *WE'RE* THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP HIM.
I WAS SORT OF HOPING YOU'D DO IT.
TURTLE! WE SHOULD DO IT *TOGETHER!*
ADVENTURES ARE MORE FUN PLUS LESS TERRIFYING WITH FRIENDS.
I'M NO HERO. I DON'T HAVE GOOD IDEAS. I'M LAZY. I *HIDE*.
WAKING ME UP WAS A GREAT IDEA! AND LOOK, YOU'RE NOT HIDING *NOW*.
IF I'M IN THE STORY AT ALL, I'M THE HAPLESS SIDEKICK.
AWESOME! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A HAPLESS SIDEKICK!
OK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPLESS MEANS. BUT I BET IT'S ANOTHER WORD FOR *AWESOME*.
LET'S GO TAKE HIM DOWN!
IT'S NOT THAT EASY!

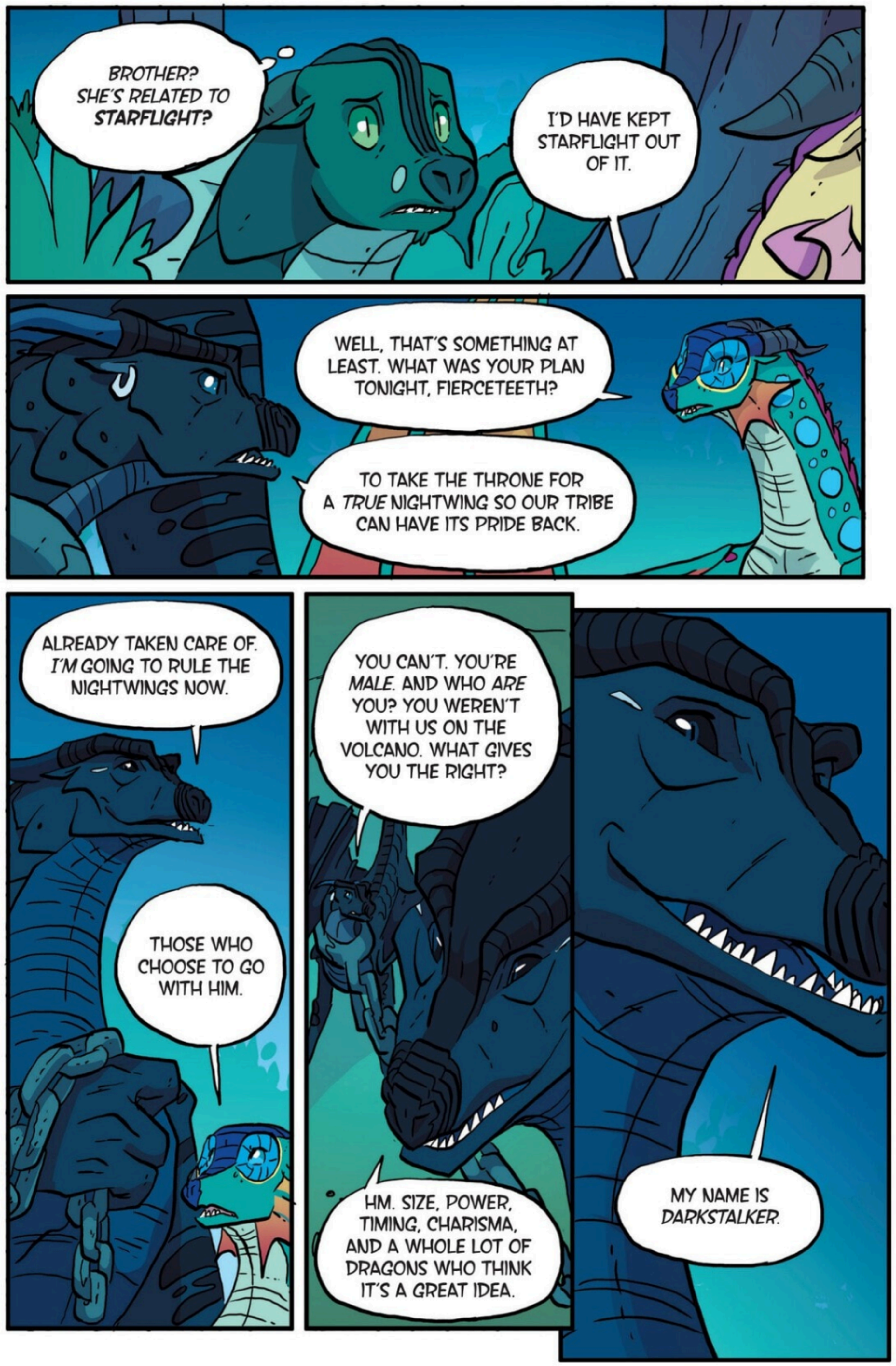

WHY NOT? YOU SAID HE CAN'T HURT ME.
WAIT, WHY CAN'T HE HURT ME?
BECAUSE OF THE SPELL I PUT ON YOU.
OH, THAT'S, UH, ANOTHER THING I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED.
TURTLE, *YOU'RE AN ANIMUS?*
KIND OF A SECRET ONE? PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYBODY.

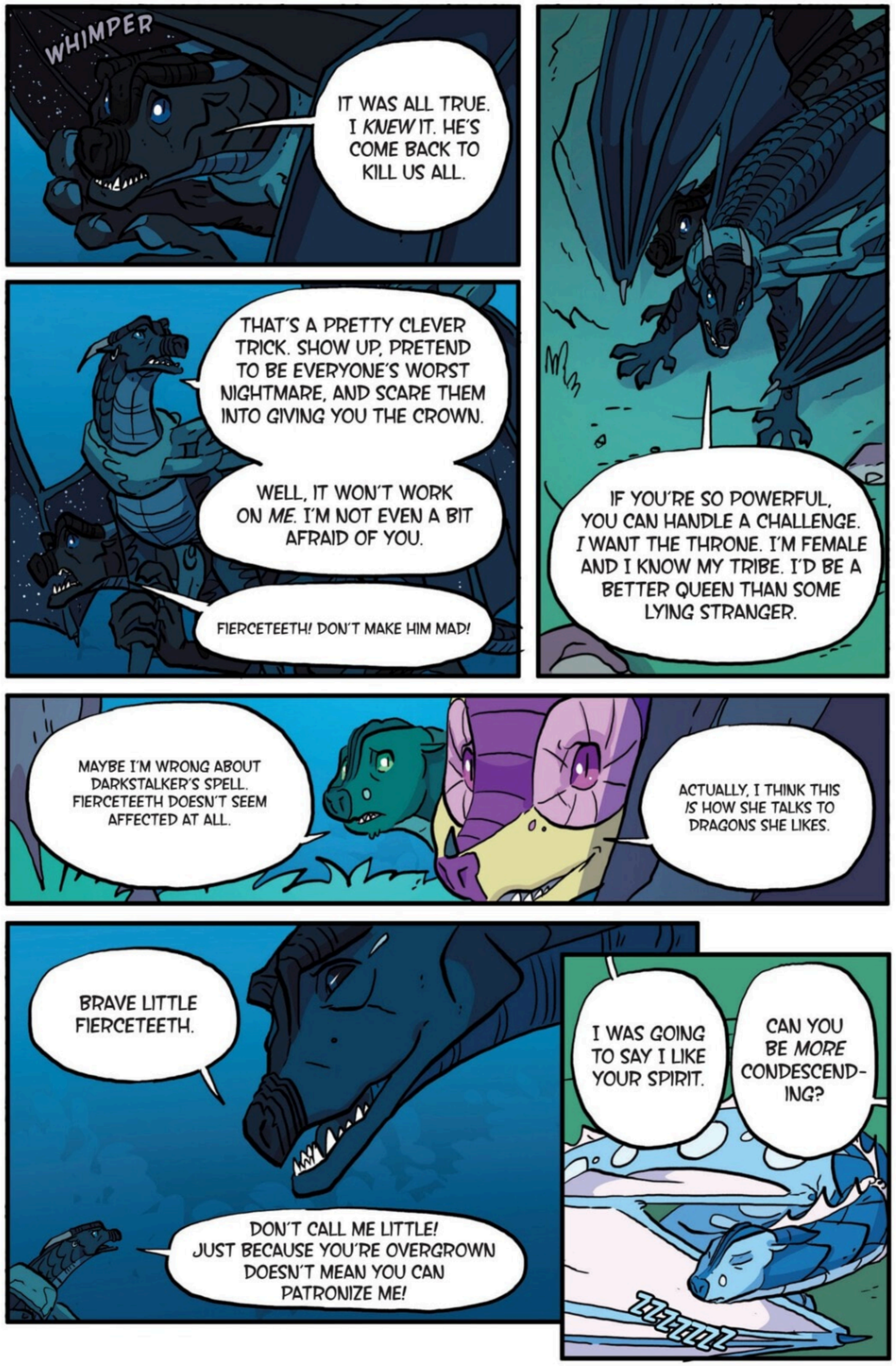

THREE MOONS! DOES MOON AND EVERYONE KNOW? WHY AM I ALWAYS LAST?
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE FIFTH. SIXTH, COUNTING ME.
OK, THAT'S NOT BAD. BUT *NEXT* TIME YOU HAVE A MAJOR ENORMOUS SECRET, TELL ME FIRST, OK?
DARKSTALKER CAST A SPELL TO SENSE WHENEVER SOMEONE DOES MAGIC. SO NOW I CAN'T DO ANY UNLESS I TIME IT WITH ANEMONE'S SPELLS. BUT BEFORE THAT, I ENCHANTED THIS STICK TO HIDE ME FROM DARKSTALKER.
SEE, I *AM* HIDING.
OOOOO! TOTALLY INVISIBLE TO DARKSTALKER! ANOTHER GREAT IDEA!
WE'LL BE AN *AWESOME* TEAM, TURTLE. YOU'LL BE THE IDEA DRAGON AND I'LL BE THE ***WHAM BAM SHOVE A PINEAPPLE UP HIS SNOUT*** DRAGON.
THAT WON'T WORK. I THINK HIS SNOUT IS ENCHANTED.
TO BE INVULNERABLE TO PINEAPPLES?! HEE!
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, TURTLE. MY PLAN WILL TOTALLY WORK, OR IF NOT, WE'LL COME UP WITH AN AMAZING *NEW* PLAN! *OOOO,* I BET GLORY FELT EXACTLY THIS WAY WHEN *SHE* SAVED THE WORLD!
MAYBE THIS WASN'T MY BEST PLAN.

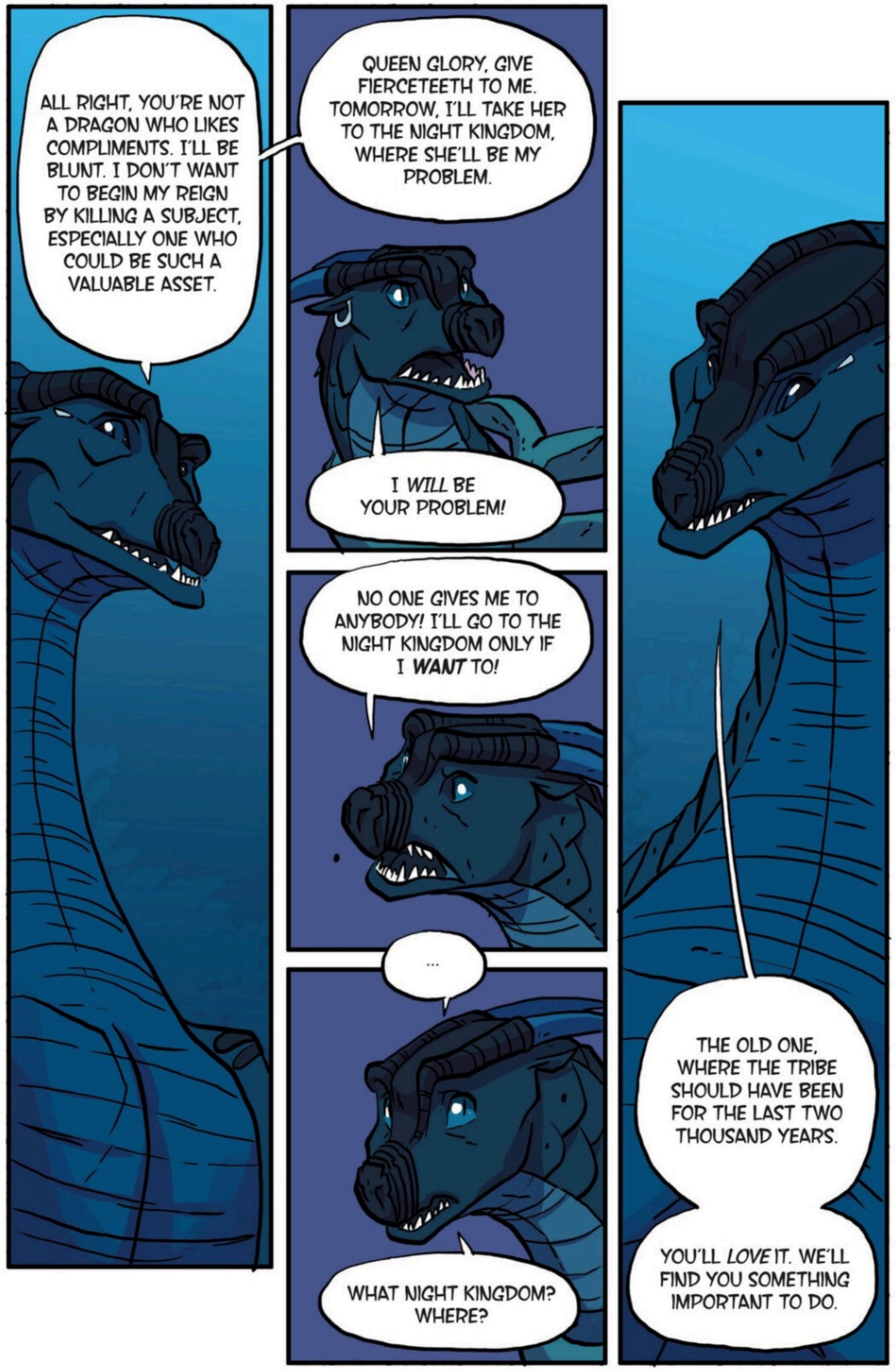

GRR
QUEEN GLORY NEVER ALLOWS THAT MUCH FIRE IN OUR FOREST. SHE'S DEFINITELY FALLEN FOR THAT BABOON BUTT'S ACT.
SPELL. IT'S A SPELL.
IS KINKAJOU REALLY IN LOVE WITH ME NOW? SHE'S ACTING THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
MAYBE SHE... ALREADY FELT THAT WAY ABOUT ME?
NO. WHO'D LIKE ***ME*** *WITH DRAGONS LIKE QIBLI AND WINTER AROUND?*
THIS FIRE WILL KEEP YOUR MAJESTY SAFE. THE ASSASSINS AREN'T BRAVE ENOUGH TO RUN THROUGH IT. AND IF THEY FLY, YOU'LL HEAR THEM.
OF COURSE, *I'LL* HEAR THEIR MINDS FIRST.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S POSING FOR A PORTRAIT. *POMPOUS SNEERDEGARD THE MAGNIFICENT.*
SHHHH. KINKAJOU, HE COULD STILL HEAR *YOU.*
SNORF
HE WON'T CARE. I'M LESS THAN NOBODY TO HIM.

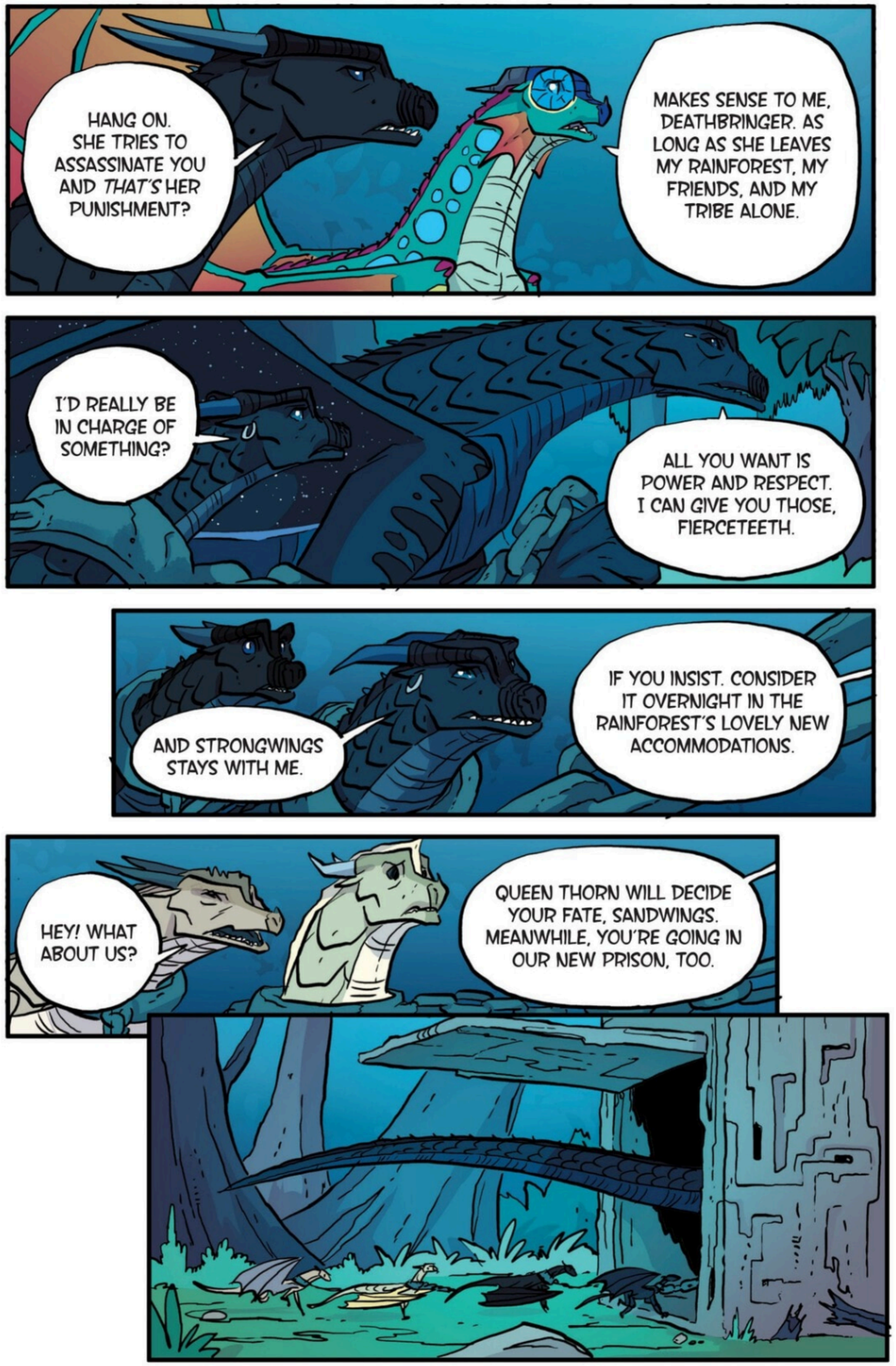

YEEEEK. I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT. I WANT TO BE SOMEBODY DRAGONS NOTICE AND REMEMBER.
NOPE, NOPE, NOPE. I GAVE UP ON ***THAT*** *A LONG TIME AGO. IF NO ONE NOTICES YOU, YOU CAN'T LET ANYONE DOWN.*
A-*HEM.*
OH! UM. YOU'RE SOMEBODY TO ME.
RIGHT LINE, TURTLE, BUT YOU NEED TO WORK ON TIMING AND BELIEVABILITY.
YOU ARE! I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
THE ASSASSINS ARE HERE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM, YOUR MAJESTY.
HA! I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM! I WOULDN'T WANT TO MEET DARKSTALKER IN THE DARK.

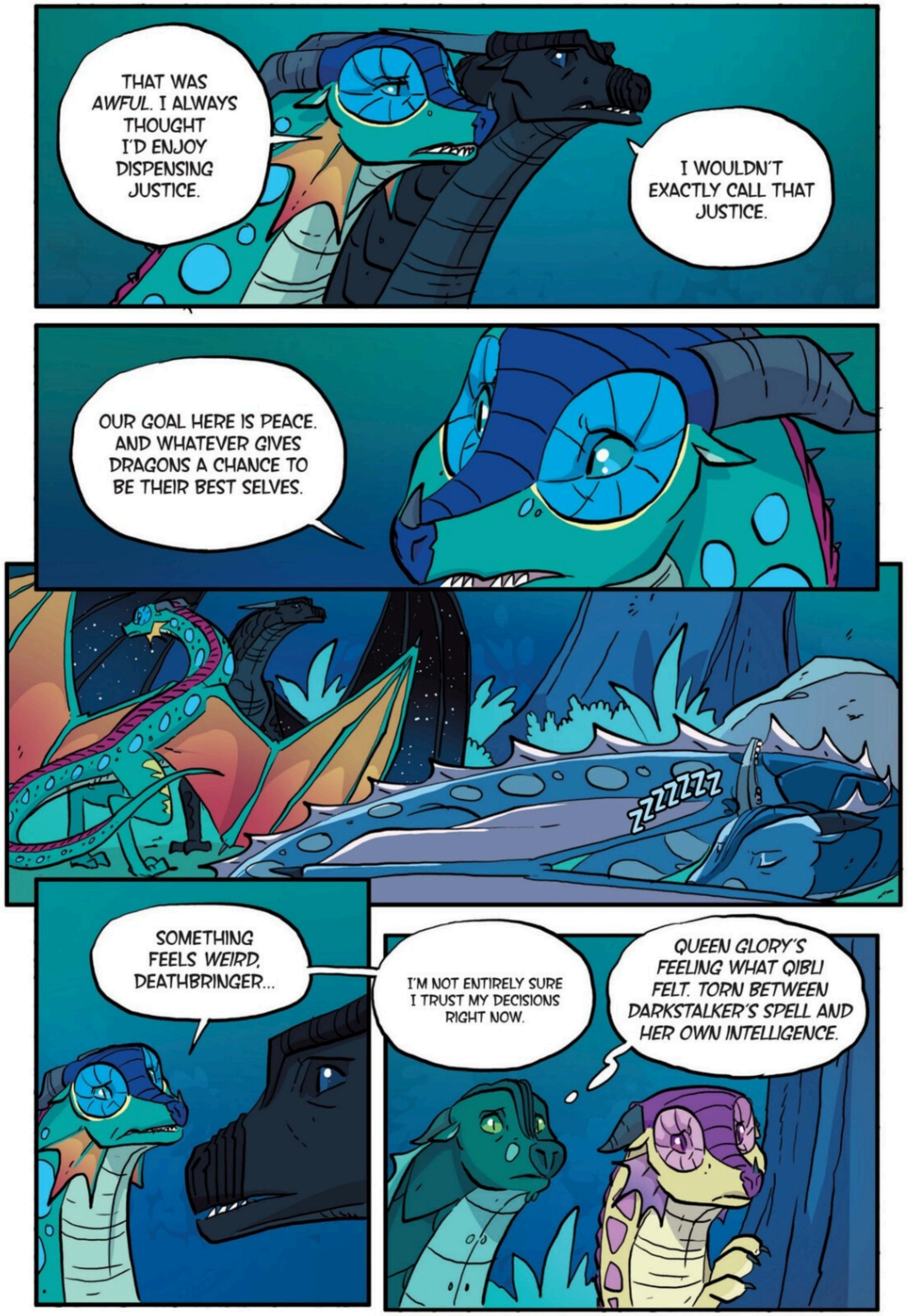

LET US *GO!* WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? ARE YOU A NIGHTWING OR NOT? WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
WHOOOOSH!
WE DON'T USUALLY DO *CHAINS* IN THE RAINFOREST.
THEY'RE EFFECTIVE, THOUGH. I PREFER YOUR ENEMIES THIS WAY.
I REMEMBER YOU, FIERCETEETH AND STRONGWINGS. WHAT YOU DID CANNOT EASILY BE FORGIVEN. YOU KIDNAPPED SUNNY IN THE HOPE OF GETTING MY FRIENDS AND ME KILLED—INCLUDING YOUR OWN BROTHER.

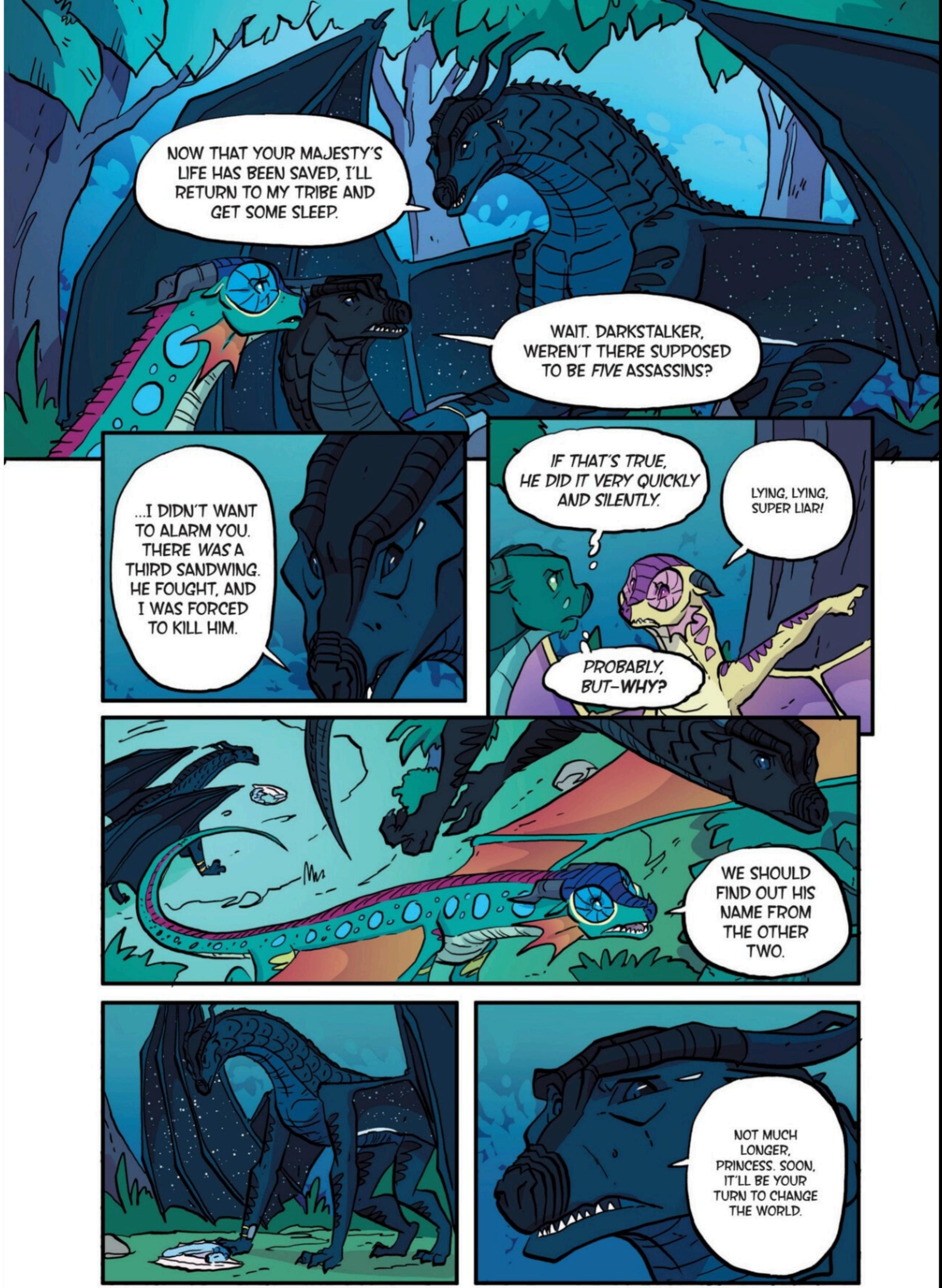

BROTHER? SHE'S RELATED TO **STARFLIGHT?**
I'D HAVE KEPT STARFLIGHT OUT OF IT.
WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING AT LEAST. WHAT WAS YOUR PLAN TONIGHT, FIERCETEETH?
TO TAKE THE THRONE FOR A *TRUE* NIGHTWING SO OUR TRIBE CAN HAVE ITS PRIDE BACK.
ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF. *I'M* GOING TO RULE THE NIGHTWINGS NOW.
THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO GO WITH HIM.
YOU CAN'T. YOU'RE *MALE*. AND WHO *ARE* YOU? YOU WEREN'T WITH US ON THE VOLCANO. WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT?
HM. SIZE, POWER, TIMING, CHARISMA, AND A WHOLE LOT OF DRAGONS WHO THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA.
MY NAME IS *DARKSTALKER*.

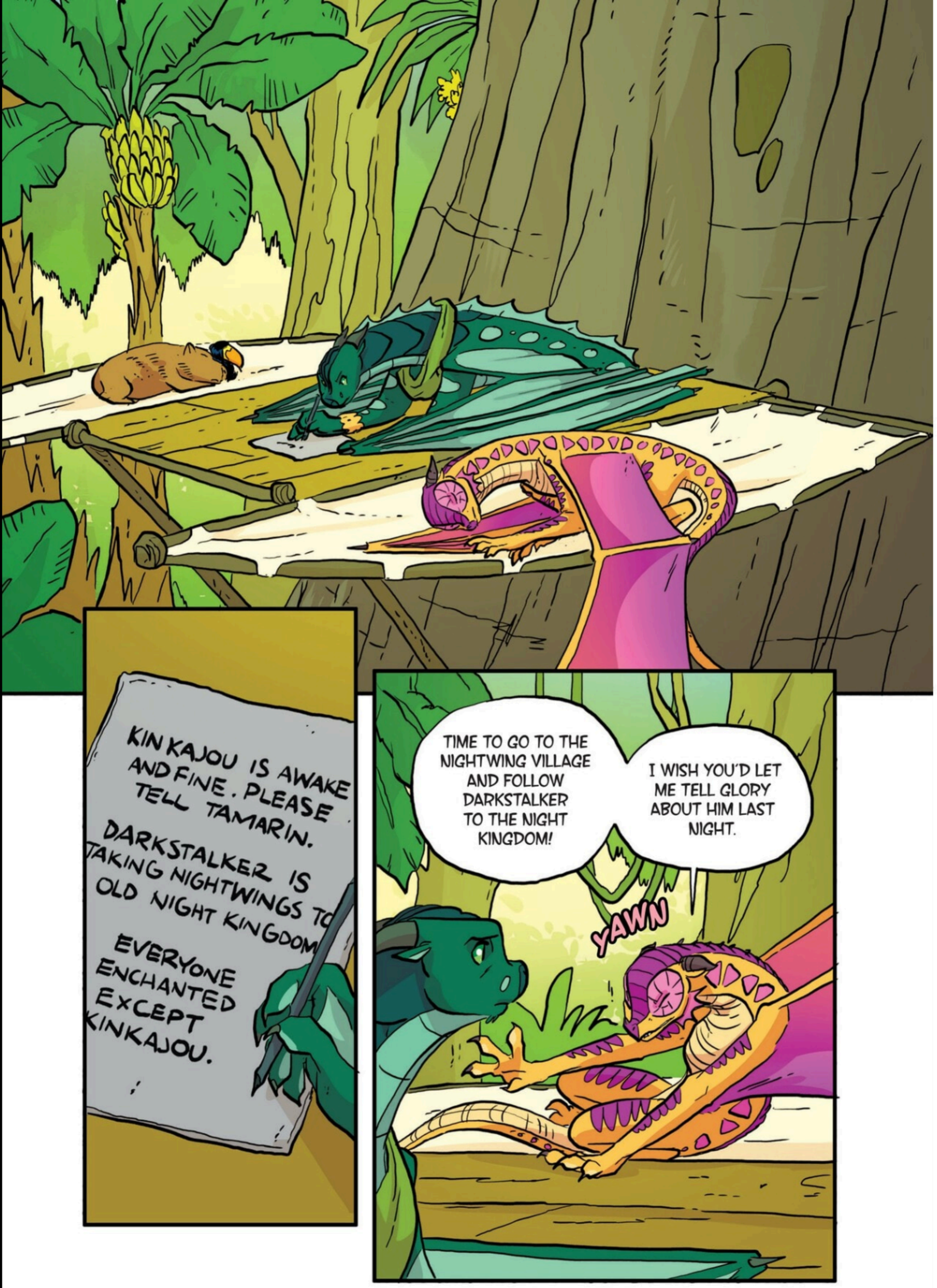

WHIMPER
IT WAS ALL TRUE. I *KNEW* IT. HE'S COME BACK TO KILL US ALL.
THAT'S A PRETTY CLEVER TRICK. SHOW UP, PRETEND TO BE EVERYONE'S WORST NIGHTMARE, AND SCARE THEM INTO GIVING YOU THE CROWN.
WELL, IT WON'T WORK ON *ME*. I'M NOT EVEN A BIT AFRAID OF YOU.
FIERCETEETH! DON'T MAKE HIM MAD!
IF YOU'RE SO POWERFUL, YOU CAN HANDLE A CHALLENGE. *I* WANT THE THRONE. I'M FEMALE AND I KNOW MY TRIBE. I'D BE A BETTER QUEEN THAN SOME LYING STRANGER.
MAYBE I'M WRONG ABOUT DARKSTALKER'S SPELL. FIERCETEETH DOESN'T SEEM AFFECTED AT ALL.
ACTUALLY, I THINK THIS *IS* HOW SHE TALKS TO DRAGONS SHE LIKES.
BRAVE LITTLE FIERCETEETH.
DON'T CALL ME LITTLE! JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE OVERGROWN DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN PATRONIZE ME!
I WAS GOING TO SAY I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT.
CAN YOU BE *MORE* CONDESCENDING?
ZZZZZZ

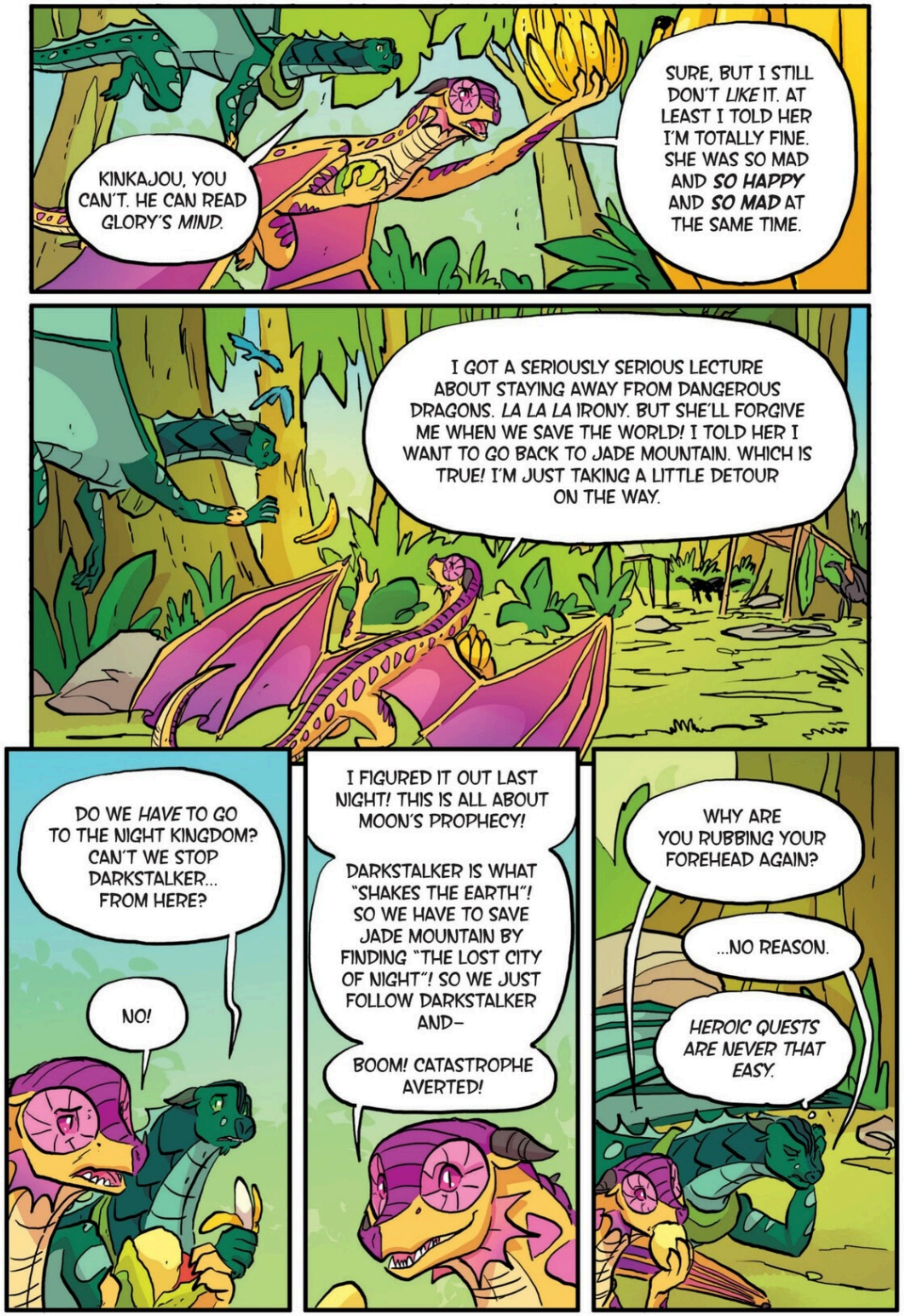

ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE NOT A DRAGON WHO LIKES COMPLIMENTS. I'LL BE BLUNT. I DON'T WANT TO BEGIN MY REIGN BY KILLING A SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY ONE WHO COULD BE SUCH A VALUABLE ASSET.
QUEEN GLORY, GIVE FIERCETEETH TO ME. TOMORROW, I'LL TAKE HER TO THE NIGHT KINGDOM, WHERE SHE'LL BE MY PROBLEM.
I *WILL* BE YOUR PROBLEM!
NO ONE GIVES ME TO ANYBODY! I'LL GO TO THE NIGHT KINGDOM ONLY IF I ***WANT*** TO!
...
WHAT NIGHT KINGDOM? WHERE?
THE OLD ONE, WHERE THE TRIBE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FOR THE LAST TWO THOUSAND YEARS.
YOU'LL *LOVE* IT. WE'LL FIND YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO.

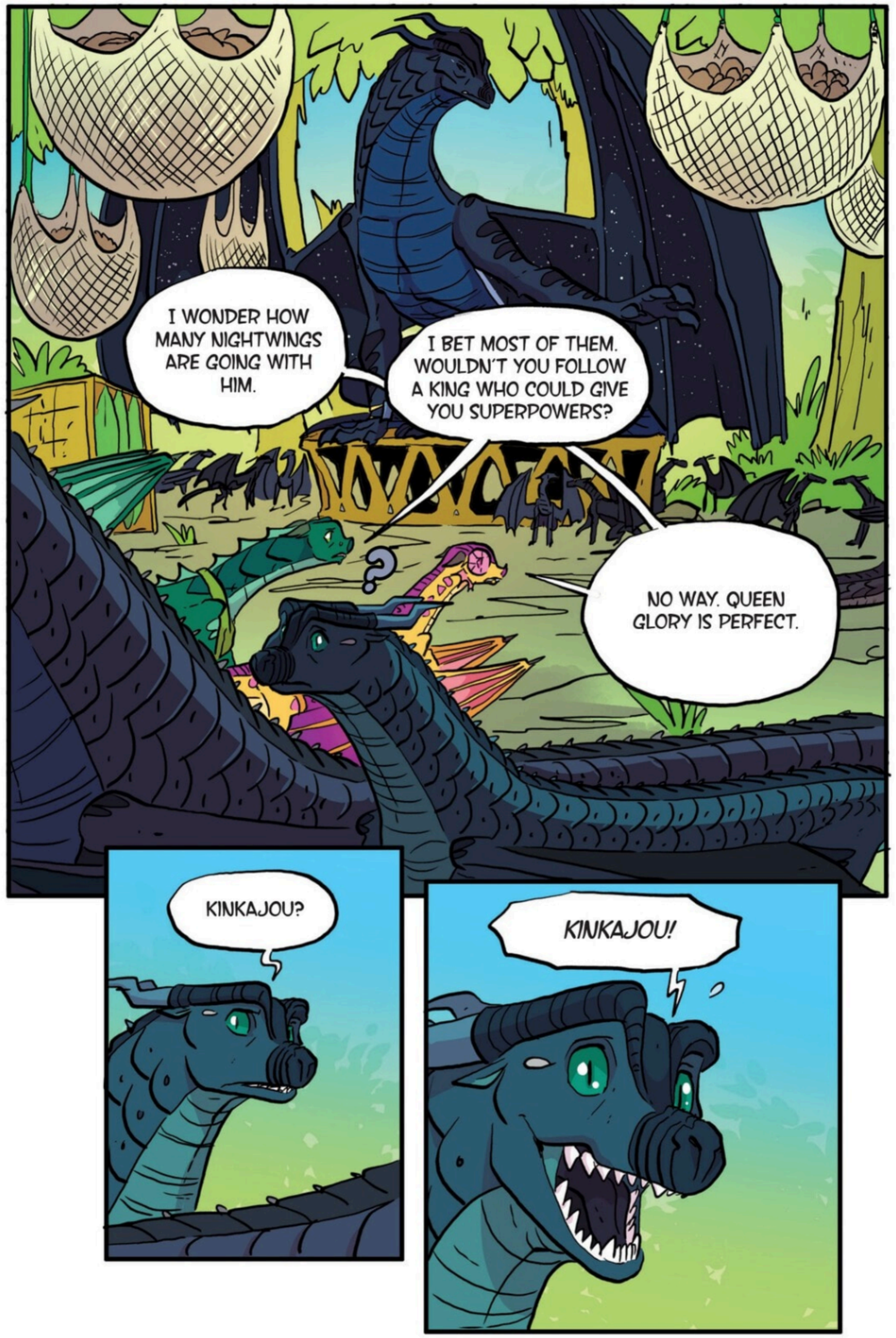

HANG ON. SHE TRIES TO ASSASSINATE YOU AND *THAT'S* HER PUNISHMENT?
MAKES SENSE TO ME, DEATHBRINGER. AS LONG AS SHE LEAVES MY RAINFOREST, MY FRIENDS, AND MY TRIBE ALONE.
I'D REALLY BE IN CHARGE OF SOMETHING?
ALL YOU WANT IS POWER AND RESPECT. I CAN GIVE YOU THOSE, FIERCETEETH.
AND STRONGWINGS STAYS WITH ME.
IF YOU INSIST. CONSIDER IT OVERNIGHT IN THE RAINFOREST'S LOVELY NEW ACCOMMODATIONS.
HEY! WHAT ABOUT US?
QUEEN THORN WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE, SANDWINGS. MEANWHILE, YOU'RE GOING IN OUR NEW PRISON, TOO.

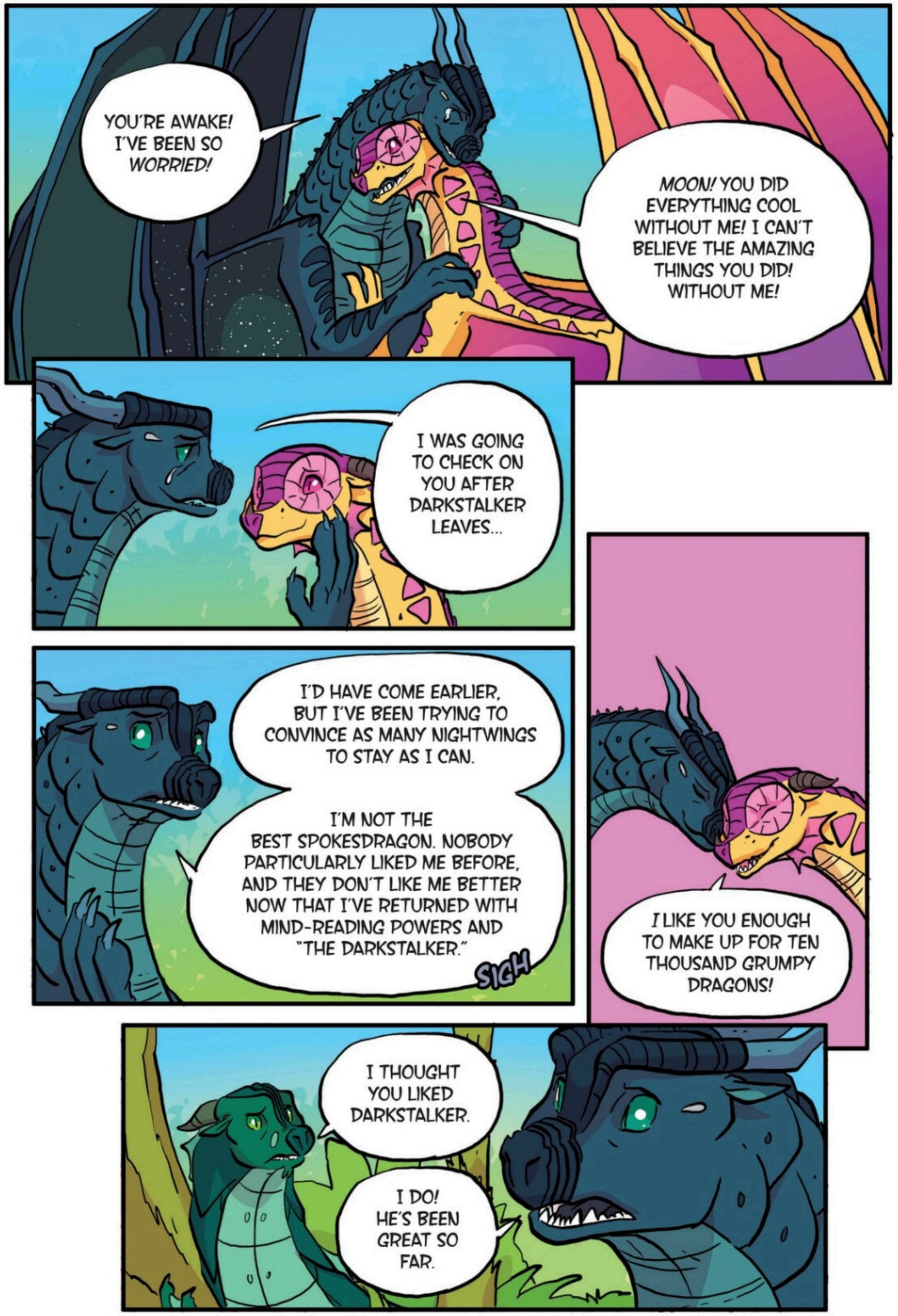

THAT WAS *AWFUL*. I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D ENJOY DISPENSING JUSTICE.
I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL THAT JUSTICE.
OUR GOAL HERE IS PEACE. AND WHATEVER GIVES DRAGONS A CHANCE TO BE THEIR BEST SELVES.
ZZZZZZ
SOMETHING FEELS *WEIRD*, DEATHBRINGER...
I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE I TRUST MY DECISIONS RIGHT NOW.
QUEEN GLORY'S FEELING WHAT QIBLI FELT. TORN BETWEEN DARKSTALKER'S SPELL AND HER OWN INTELLIGENCE.

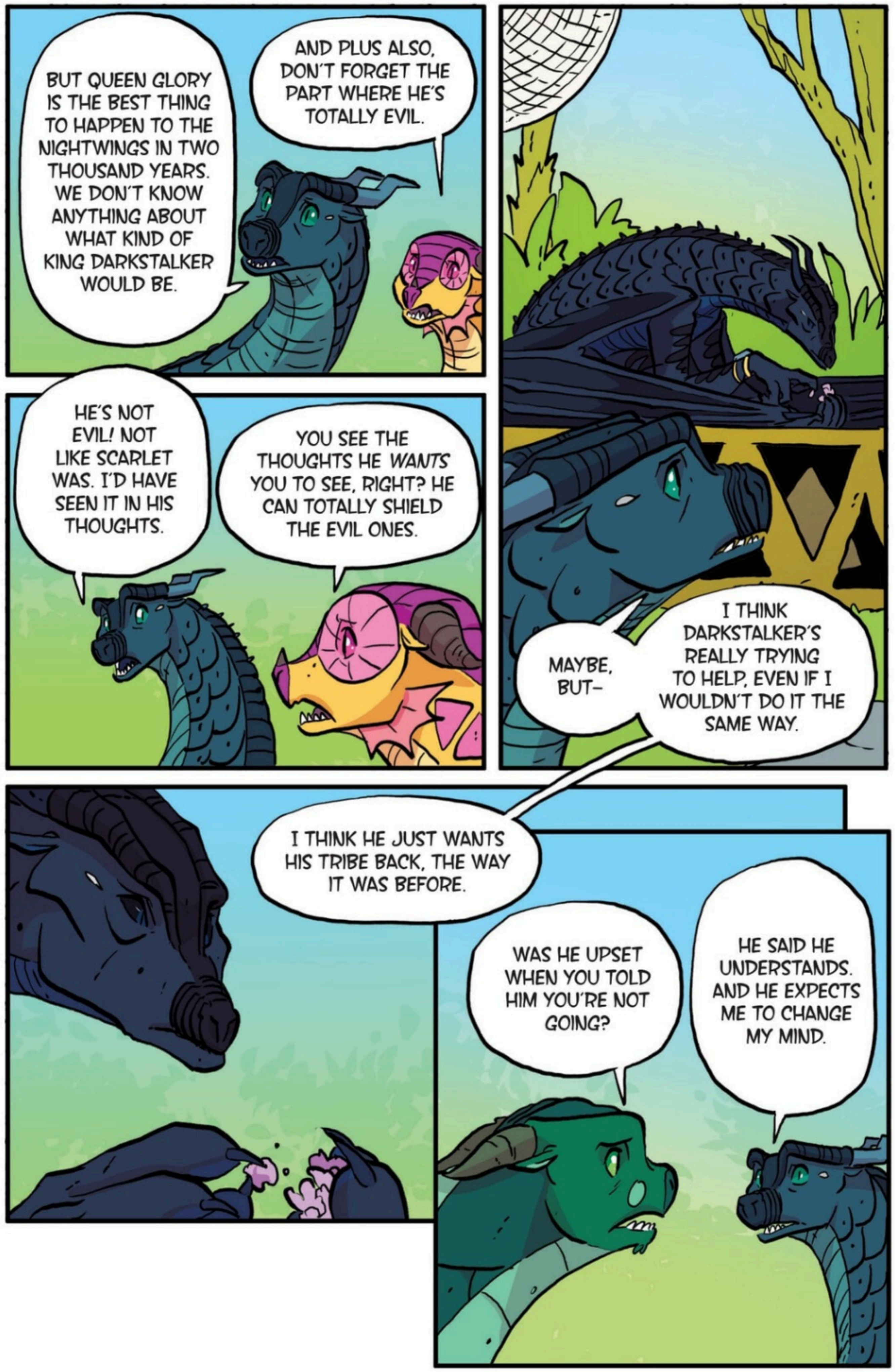

NOW THAT YOUR MAJESTY'S LIFE HAS BEEN SAVED, I'LL RETURN TO MY TRIBE AND GET SOME SLEEP.
WAIT. DARKSTALKER, WEREN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE *FIVE* ASSASSINS?
...I DIDN'T WANT TO ALARM YOU. THERE *WAS* A THIRD SANDWING. HE FOUGHT, AND I WAS FORCED TO KILL HIM.
IF THAT'S TRUE, HE DID IT VERY QUICKLY AND SILENTLY.
LYING, LYING, SUPER LIAR!
PROBABLY, BUT—WHY?
WE SHOULD FIND OUT HIS NAME FROM THE OTHER TWO.
NOT MUCH LONGER, PRINCESS. SOON, IT'LL BE YOUR TURN TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

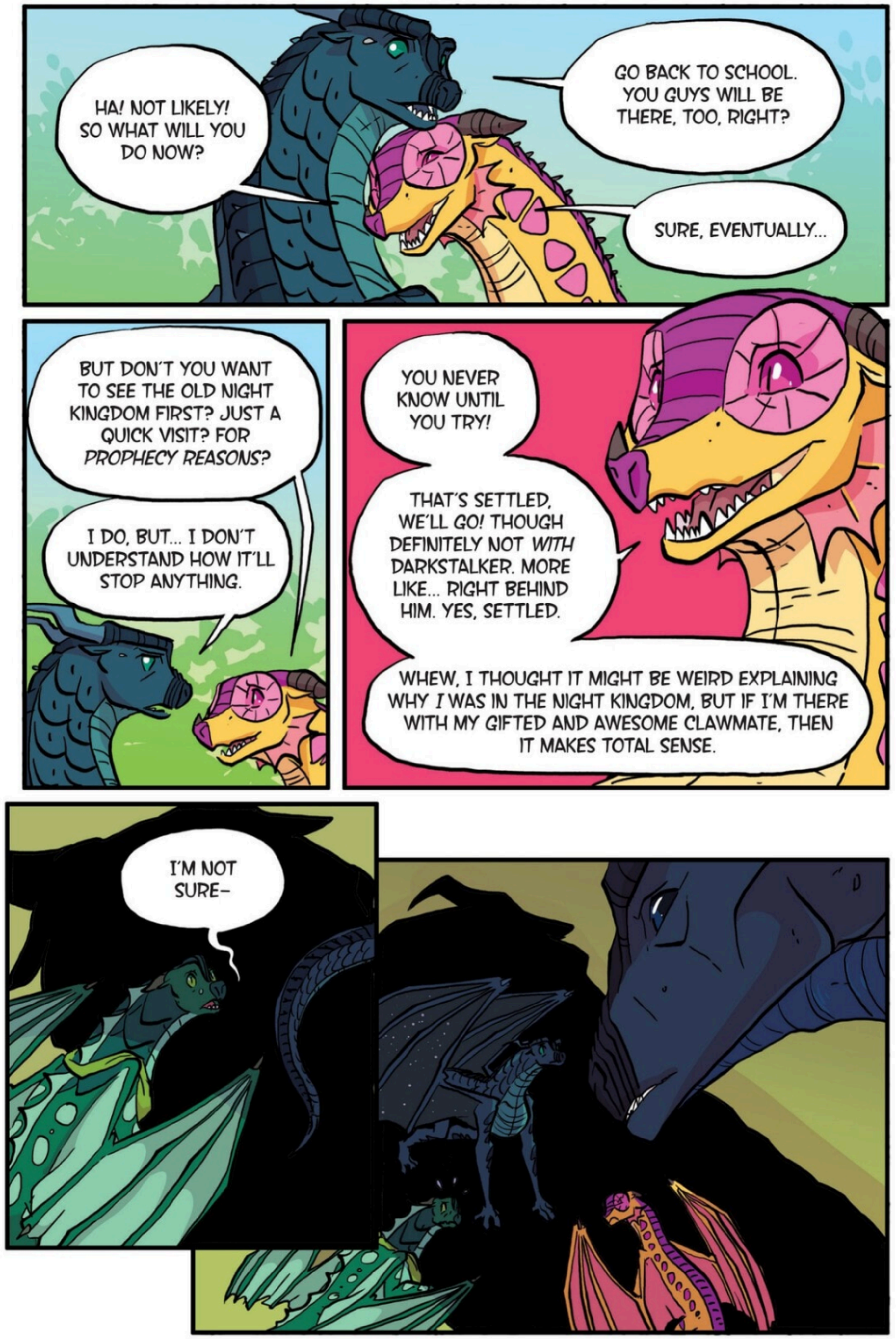

KINKAJOU IS AWAKE AND FINE. PLEASE TELL TAMARIN.
DARKSTALKER IS TAKING NIGHTWINGS TO OLD NIGHT KINGDOM.
EVERYONE ENCHANTED EXCEPT KINKAJOU.
TIME TO GO TO THE NIGHTWING VILLAGE AND FOLLOW DARKSTALKER TO THE NIGHT KINGDOM!
I WISH YOU'D LET ME TELL GLORY ABOUT HIM LAST NIGHT.
YAWN

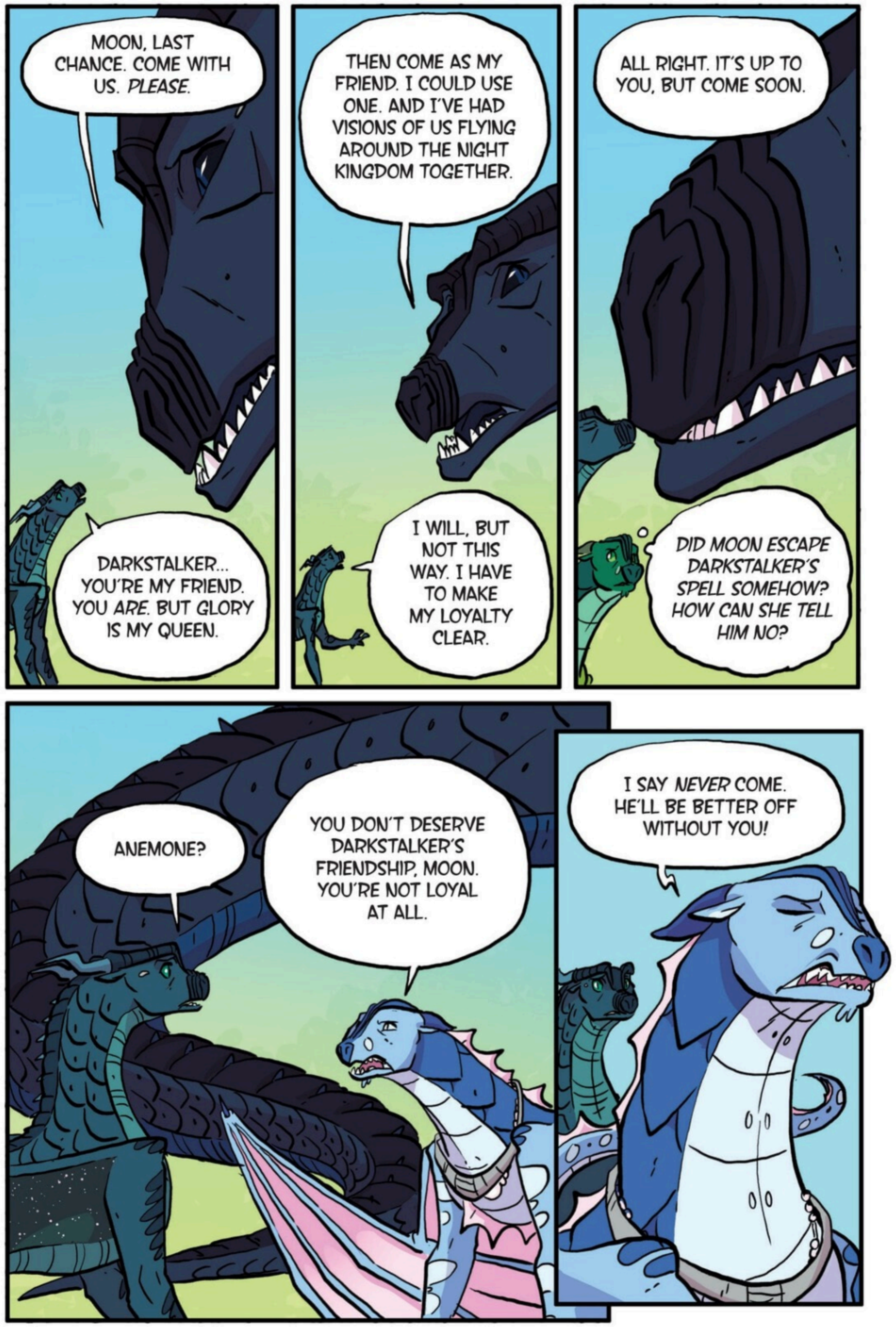

KINKAJOU, YOU CAN'T. HE CAN READ GLORY'S *MIND*.
SURE, BUT I STILL DON'T *LIKE* IT. AT LEAST I TOLD HER I'M TOTALLY FINE. SHE WAS SO MAD AND ***SO HAPPY*** AND ***SO MAD*** AT THE SAME TIME.
I GOT A SERIOUSLY SERIOUS LECTURE ABOUT STAYING AWAY FROM DANGEROUS DRAGONS. *LA LA LA* IRONY. BUT SHE'LL FORGIVE ME WHEN WE SAVE THE WORLD! I TOLD HER I WANT TO GO BACK TO JADE MOUNTAIN. WHICH IS TRUE! I'M JUST TAKING A LITTLE DETOUR ON THE WAY.
DO WE *HAVE* TO GO TO THE NIGHT KINGDOM? CAN'T WE STOP DARKSTALKER... FROM HERE?
NO!
I FIGURED IT OUT LAST NIGHT! THIS IS ALL ABOUT MOON'S PROPHECY!
DARKSTALKER IS WHAT "SHAKES THE EARTH"! SO WE HAVE TO SAVE JADE MOUNTAIN BY FINDING "THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT"! SO WE JUST FOLLOW DARKSTALKER AND–
BOOM! CATASTROPHE AVERTED!
WHY ARE YOU RUBBING YOUR FOREHEAD AGAIN?
...NO REASON.
HEROIC QUESTS ARE NEVER THAT EASY.

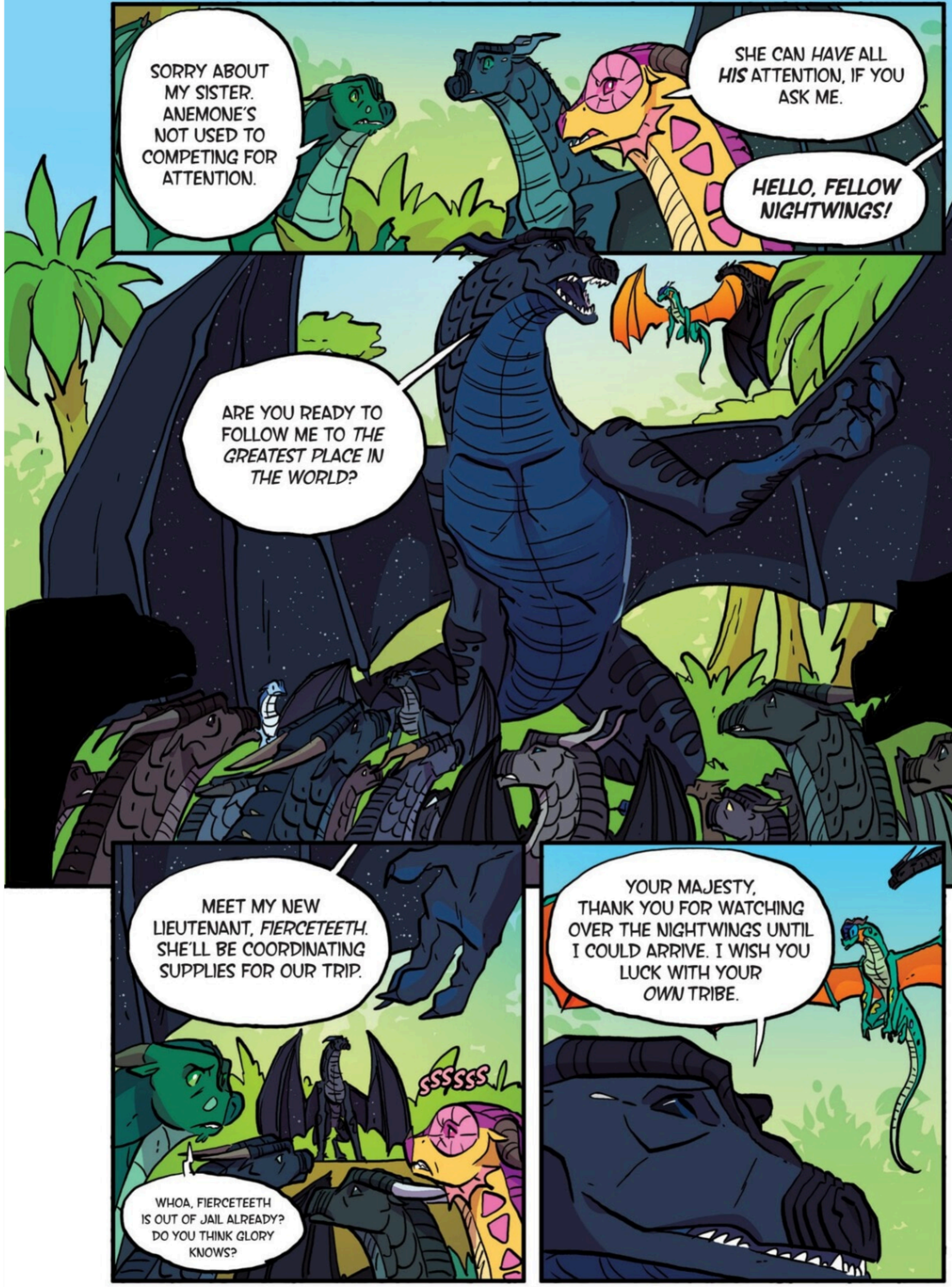

I WONDER HOW MANY NIGHTWINGS ARE GOING WITH HIM.
I BET MOST OF THEM. WOULDN'T YOU FOLLOW A KING WHO COULD GIVE YOU SUPERPOWERS?
?
NO WAY. QUEEN GLORY IS PERFECT.
KINKAJOU?
KINKAJOU!

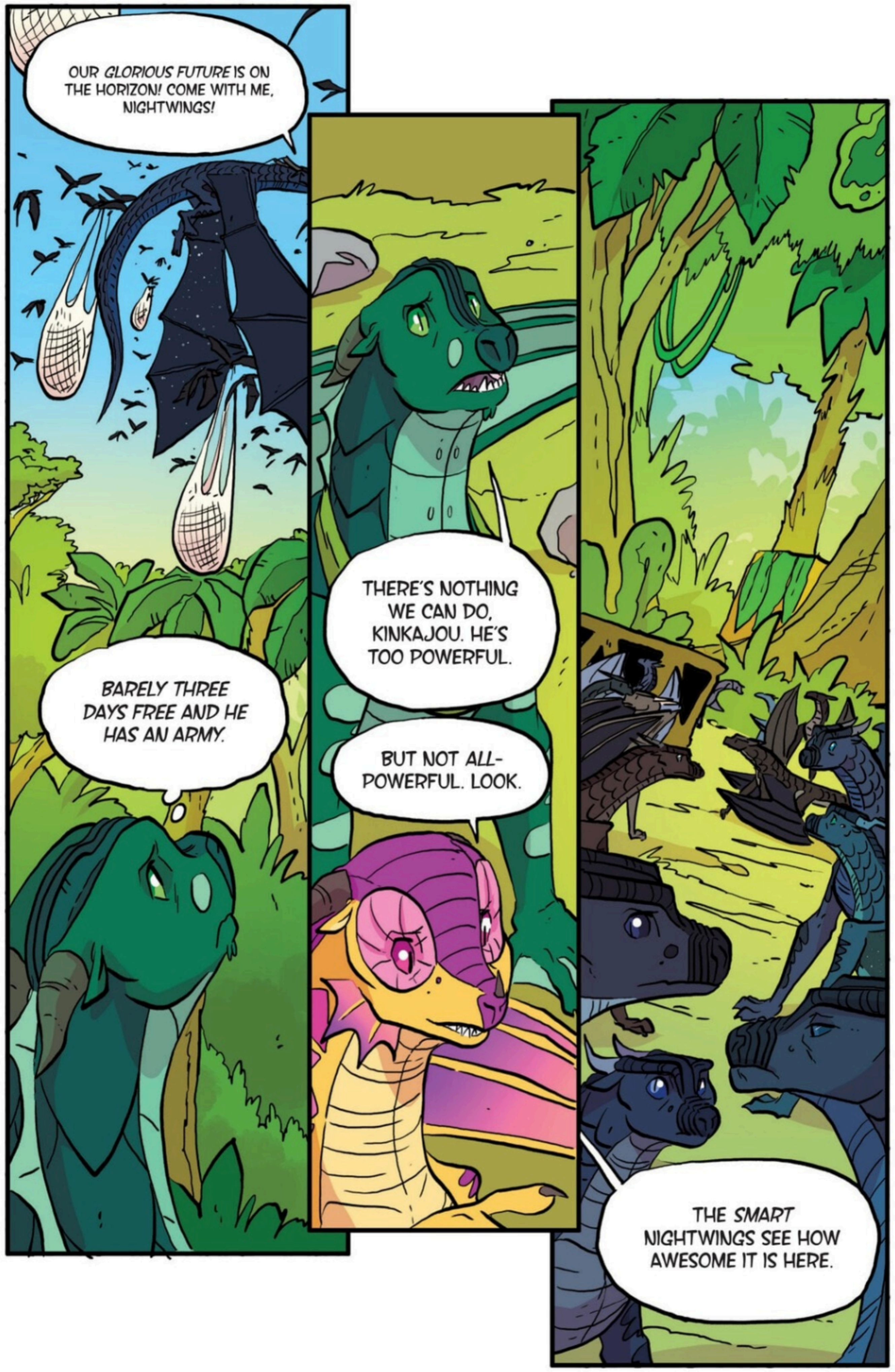

YOU'RE AWAKE! I'VE BEEN SO *WORRIED!*
MOON! YOU DID EVERYTHING COOL WITHOUT ME! I CAN'T BELIEVE THE AMAZING THINGS YOU DID! WITHOUT ME!
I WAS GOING TO CHECK ON YOU AFTER DARKSTALKER LEAVES...
I'D HAVE COME EARLIER, BUT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE AS MANY NIGHTWINGS TO STAY AS I CAN.
I'M NOT THE BEST SPOKESDRAGON. NOBODY PARTICULARLY LIKED ME BEFORE, AND THEY DON'T LIKE ME BETTER NOW THAT I'VE RETURNED WITH MIND-READING POWERS AND "THE DARKSTALKER."
SIGH
I LIKE YOU ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR TEN THOUSAND GRUMPY DRAGONS!
I THOUGHT YOU LIKED DARKSTALKER.
I DO! HE'S BEEN GREAT SO FAR.

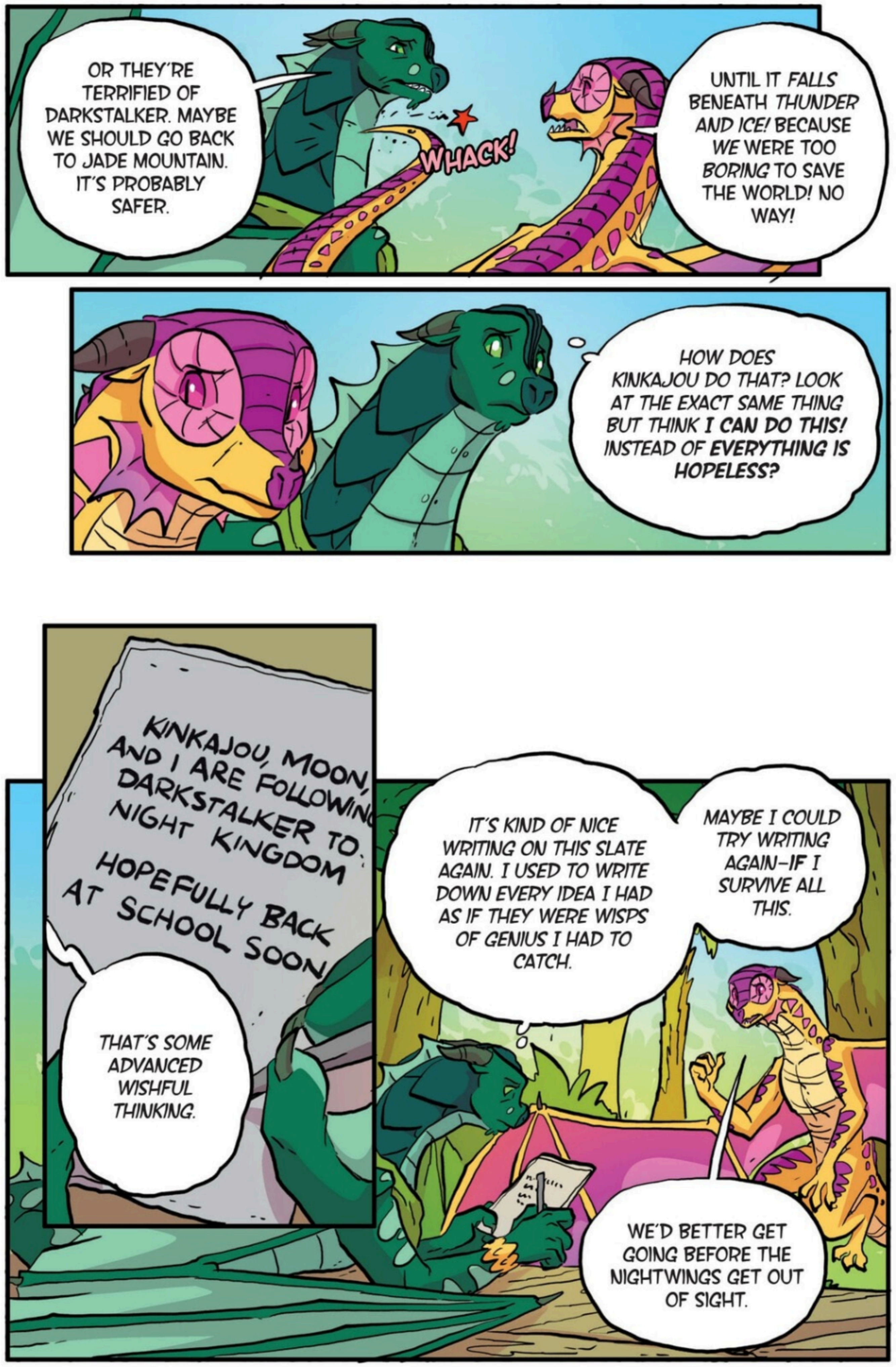

BUT QUEEN GLORY IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO THE NIGHTWINGS IN TWO THOUSAND YEARS. WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF KING DARKSTALKER WOULD BE.
AND PLUS ALSO, DON'T FORGET THE PART WHERE HE'S TOTALLY EVIL.
HE'S NOT EVIL! NOT LIKE SCARLET WAS. I'D HAVE SEEN IT IN HIS THOUGHTS.
YOU SEE THE THOUGHTS HE *WANTS* YOU TO SEE, RIGHT? HE CAN TOTALLY SHIELD THE EVIL ONES.
MAYBE, BUT–
I THINK DARKSTALKER'S REALLY TRYING TO HELP, EVEN IF I WOULDN'T DO IT THE SAME WAY.
I THINK HE JUST WANTS HIS TRIBE BACK, THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.
WAS HE UPSET WHEN YOU TOLD HIM YOU'RE NOT GOING?
HE SAID HE UNDERSTANDS. AND HE EXPECTS ME TO CHANGE MY MIND.

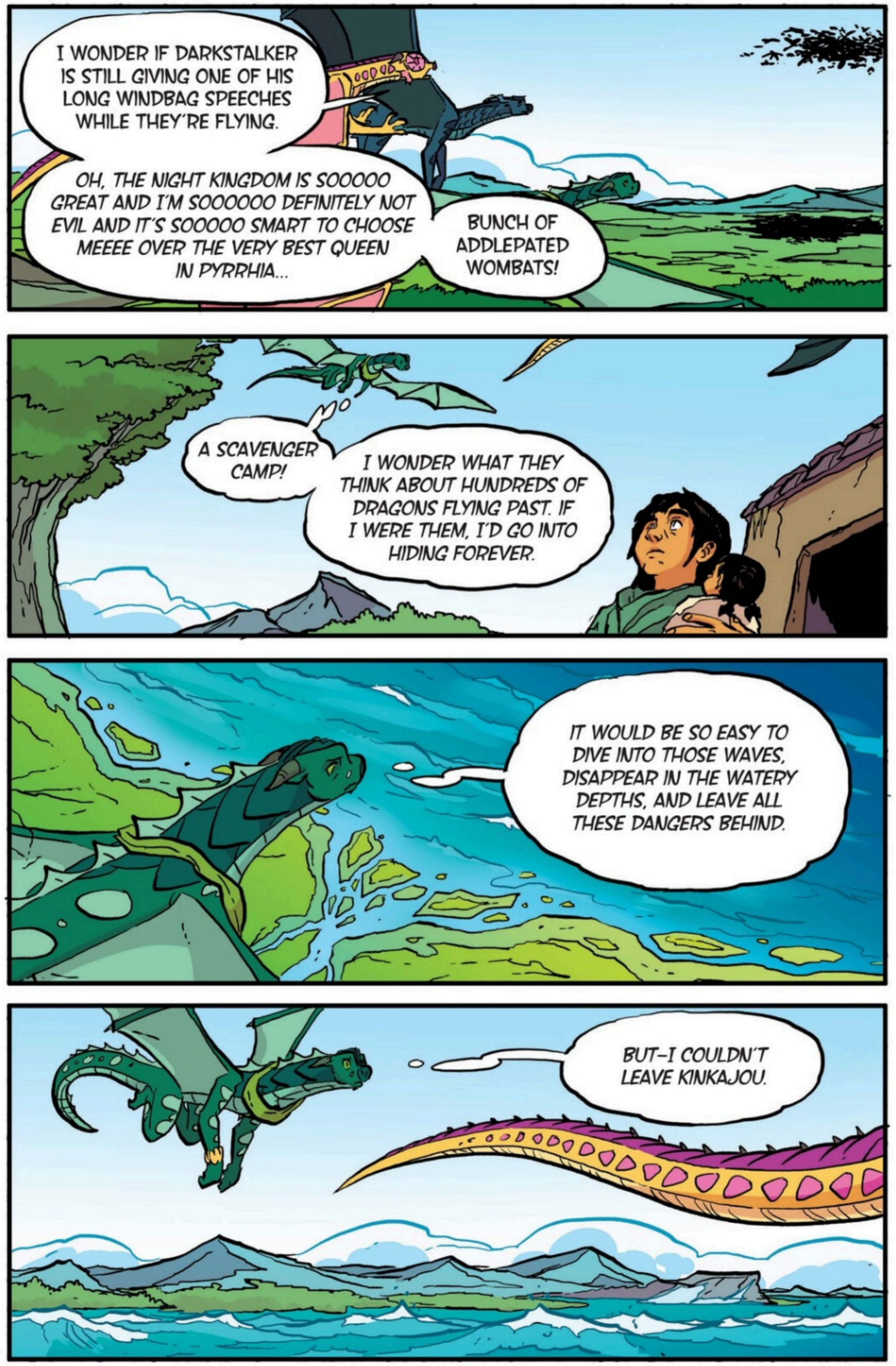

HA! NOT LIKELY! SO WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
GO BACK TO SCHOOL. YOU GUYS WILL BE THERE, TOO, RIGHT?
SURE, EVENTUALLY...
BUT DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THE OLD NIGHT KINGDOM FIRST? JUST A QUICK VISIT? FOR *PROPHECY REASONS?*
I DO, BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT'LL STOP ANYTHING.
YOU NEVER KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY!
THAT'S SETTLED, WE'LL *GO!* THOUGH DEFINITELY NOT *WITH* DARKSTALKER. MORE LIKE... RIGHT BEHIND HIM. YES, SETTLED.
WHEW, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE WEIRD EXPLAINING WHY *I* WAS IN THE NIGHT KINGDOM, BUT IF I'M THERE WITH MY GIFTED AND AWESOME CLAWMATE, THEN IT MAKES TOTAL SENSE.
I'M NOT SURE–

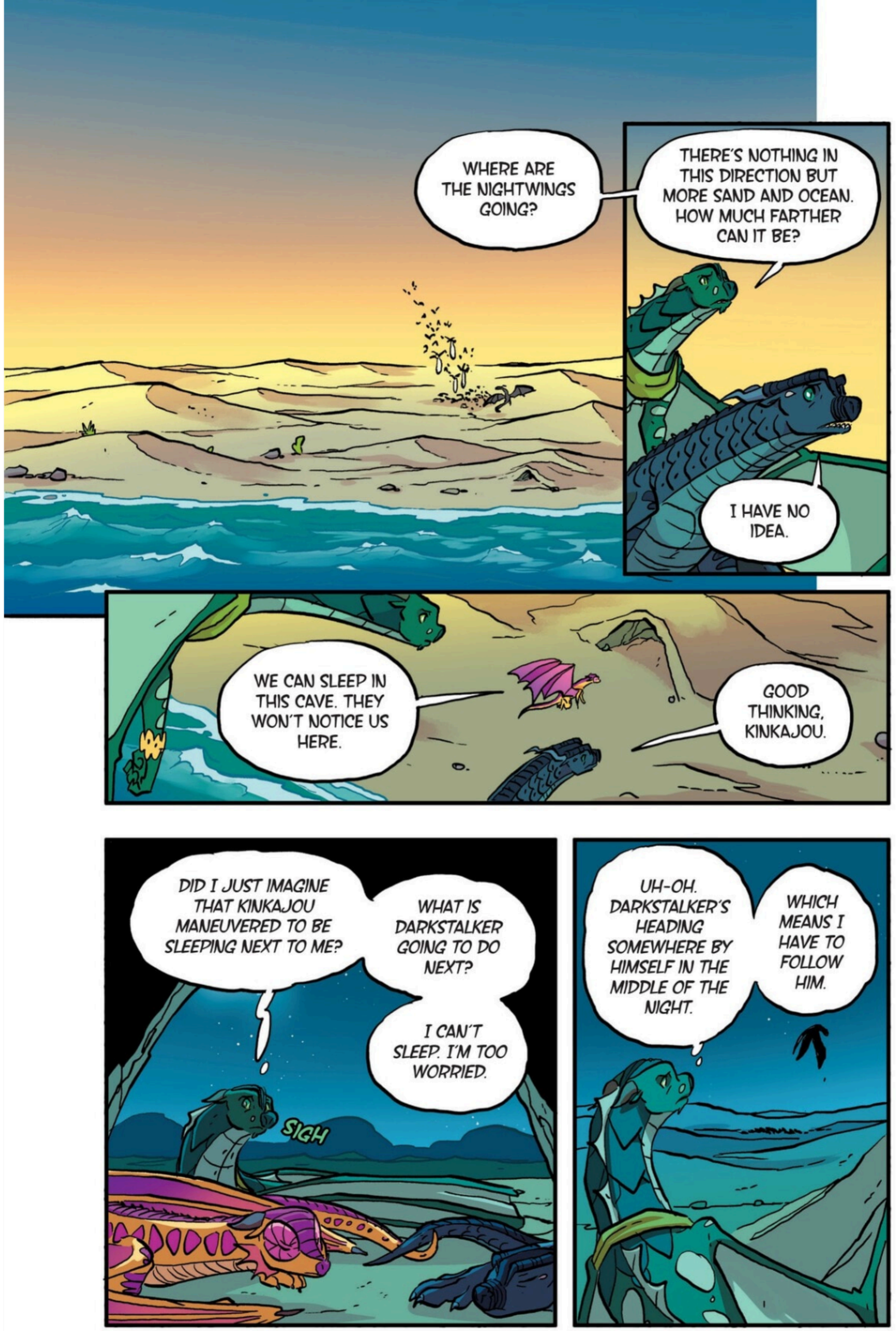

MOON, LAST CHANCE. COME WITH US. *PLEASE.*
DARKSTALKER... YOU'RE MY FRIEND. YOU *ARE*. BUT GLORY IS MY QUEEN.
THEN COME AS MY FRIEND. I COULD USE ONE. AND I'VE HAD VISIONS OF US FLYING AROUND THE NIGHT KINGDOM TOGETHER.
I WILL, BUT NOT THIS WAY. I HAVE TO MAKE MY LOYALTY CLEAR.
ALL RIGHT. IT'S UP TO YOU, BUT COME SOON.
DID MOON ESCAPE DARKSTALKER'S SPELL SOMEHOW? HOW CAN SHE TELL HIM NO?
ANEMONE?
YOU DON'T DESERVE DARKSTALKER'S FRIENDSHIP, MOON. YOU'RE NOT LOYAL AT ALL.
I SAY *NEVER* COME. HE'LL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU!


SORRY ABOUT MY SISTER. ANEMONE'S NOT USED TO COMPETING FOR ATTENTION.
SHE CAN *HAVE* ALL ***HIS*** ATTENTION, IF YOU ASK ME.
HELLO, FELLOW NIGHTWINGS!
ARE YOU READY TO FOLLOW ME TO *THE GREATEST PLACE IN THE WORLD?*
MEET MY NEW LIEUTENANT, *FIERCETEETH*. SHE'LL BE COORDINATING SUPPLIES FOR OUR TRIP.
SSSSSS
WHOA, FIERCETEETH IS OUT OF JAIL ALREADY? DO YOU THINK GLORY KNOWS?
YOUR MAJESTY, THANK YOU FOR WATCHING OVER THE NIGHTWINGS UNTIL I COULD ARRIVE. I WISH YOU LUCK WITH YOUR *OWN* TRIBE.

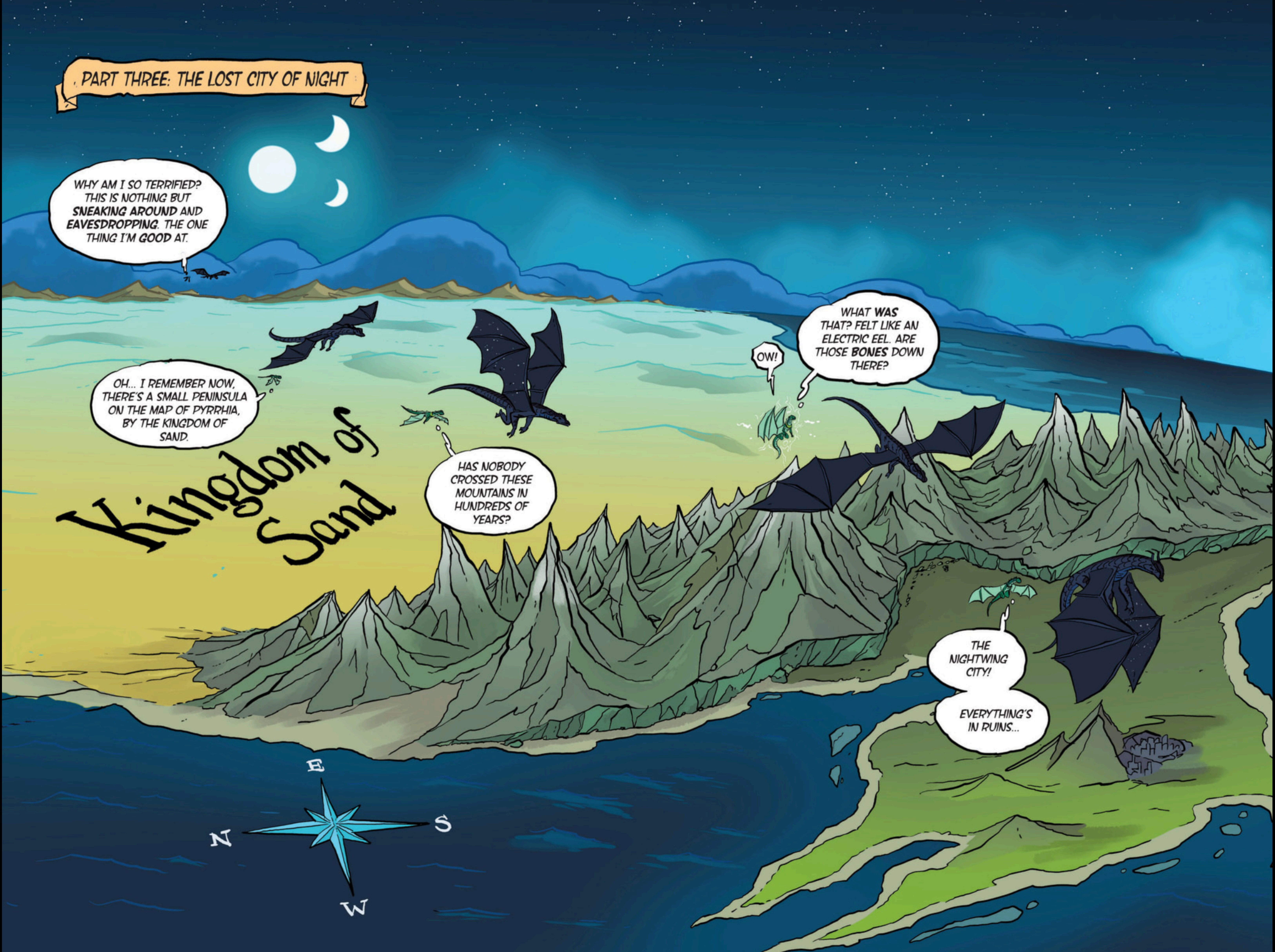

OUR *GLORIOUS FUTURE* IS ON THE HORIZON! COME WITH ME, NIGHTWINGS!
BARELY THREE DAYS FREE AND HE HAS AN ARMY.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, KINKAJOU. HE'S TOO POWERFUL.
BUT NOT *ALL*-POWERFUL. LOOK.
THE *SMART* NIGHTWINGS SEE HOW AWESOME IT IS HERE.

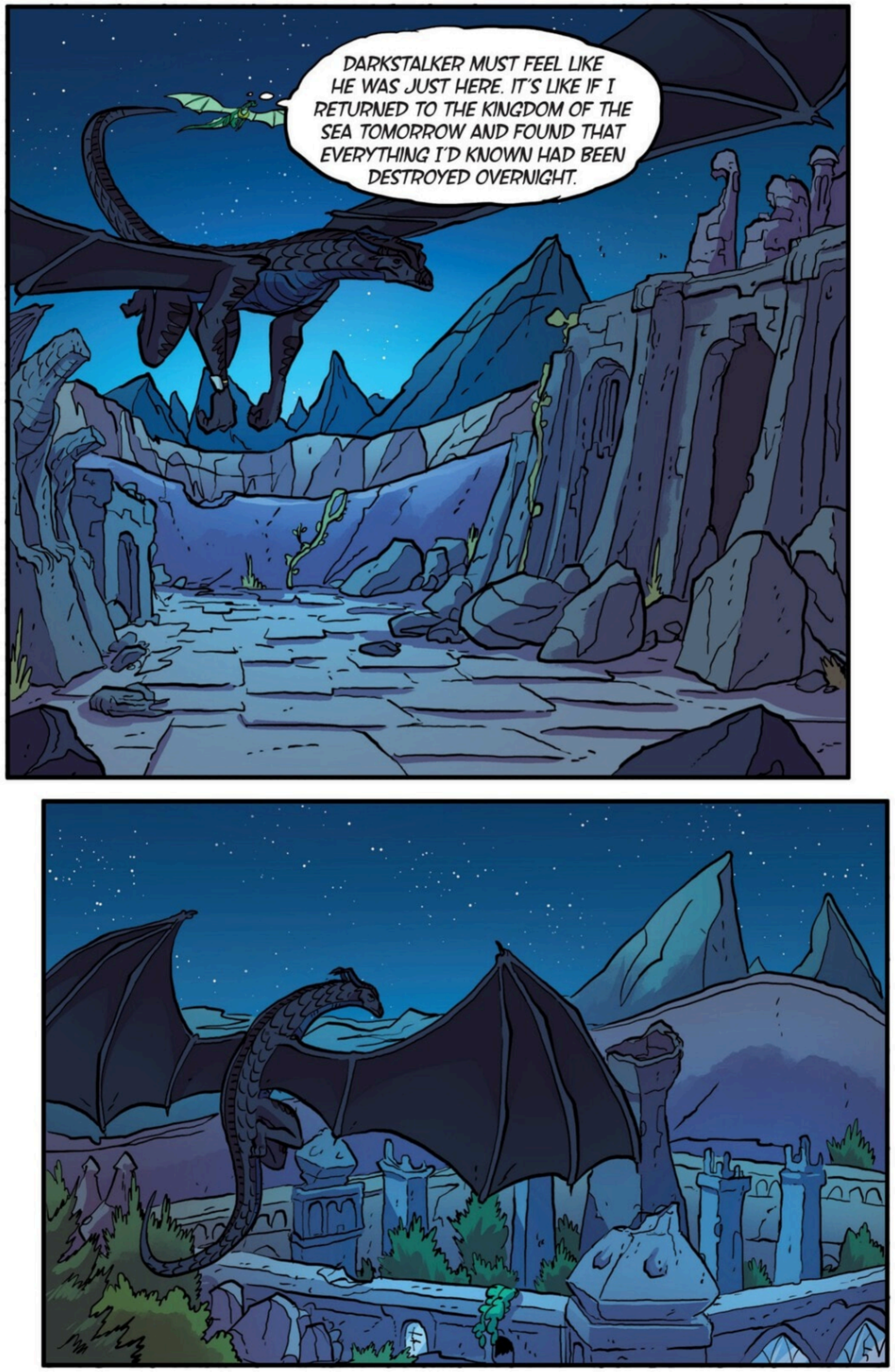

OR THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF DARKSTALKER. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO BACK TO JADE MOUNTAIN. IT'S PROBABLY SAFER.
WHACK!
UNTIL IT *FALLS* BENEATH *THUNDER AND ICE!* BECAUSE *WE* WERE TOO *BORING* TO SAVE THE WORLD! NO WAY!
HOW DOES KINKAJOU DO THAT? LOOK AT THE EXACT SAME THING BUT THINK ***I CAN DO THIS!*** *INSTEAD OF* ***EVERYTHING IS HOPELESS?***
KINKAJOU, MOON, AND I ARE FOLLOWIN DARKSTALKER TO NIGHT KINGDOM
HOPEFULLY BACK AT SCHOOL SOON
THAT'S SOME ADVANCED WISHFUL THINKING.
IT'S KIND OF NICE WRITING ON THIS SLATE AGAIN. I USED TO WRITE DOWN EVERY IDEA I HAD AS IF THEY WERE WISPS OF GENIUS I HAD TO CATCH.
MAYBE I COULD TRY WRITING AGAIN—IF I SURVIVE ALL THIS.
WE'D BETTER GET GOING BEFORE THE NIGHTWINGS GET OUT OF SIGHT.

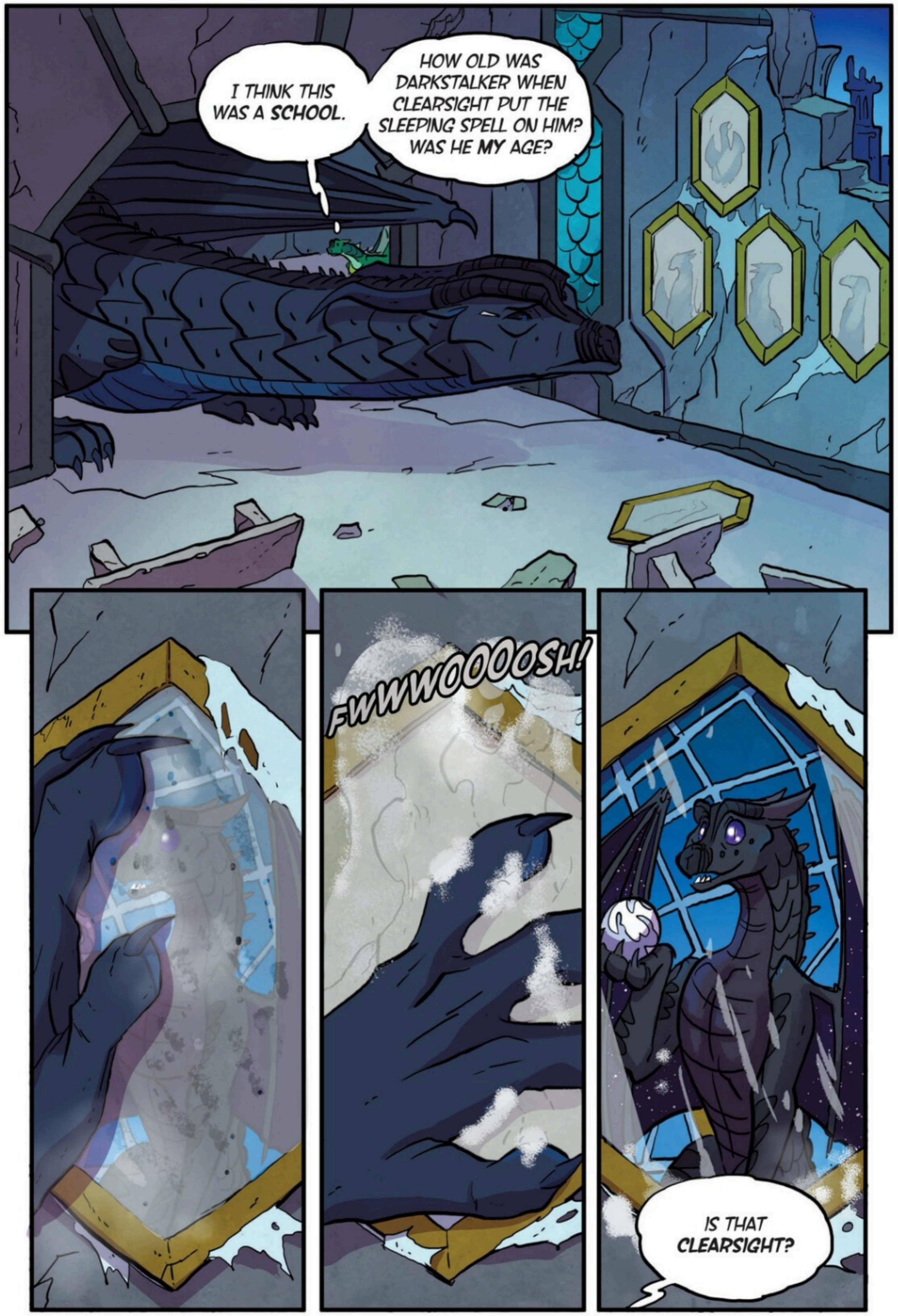

I WONDER IF DARKSTALKER IS STILL GIVING ONE OF HIS LONG WINDBAG SPEECHES WHILE THEY'RE FLYING.
OH, THE NIGHT KINGDOM IS SOOOOO GREAT AND I'M SOOOOOO DEFINITELY NOT EVIL AND IT'S SOOOOO SMART TO CHOOSE MEEEE OVER THE VERY BEST QUEEN IN PYRRHIA...
BUNCH OF ADDLEPATED WOMBATS!
A SCAVENGER CAMP!
I WONDER WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT HUNDREDS OF DRAGONS FLYING PAST. IF I WERE THEM, I'D GO INTO HIDING FOREVER.
IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO DIVE INTO THOSE WAVES, DISAPPEAR IN THE WATERY DEPTHS, AND LEAVE ALL THESE DANGERS BEHIND.
BUT–I COULDN'T LEAVE KINKAJOU.

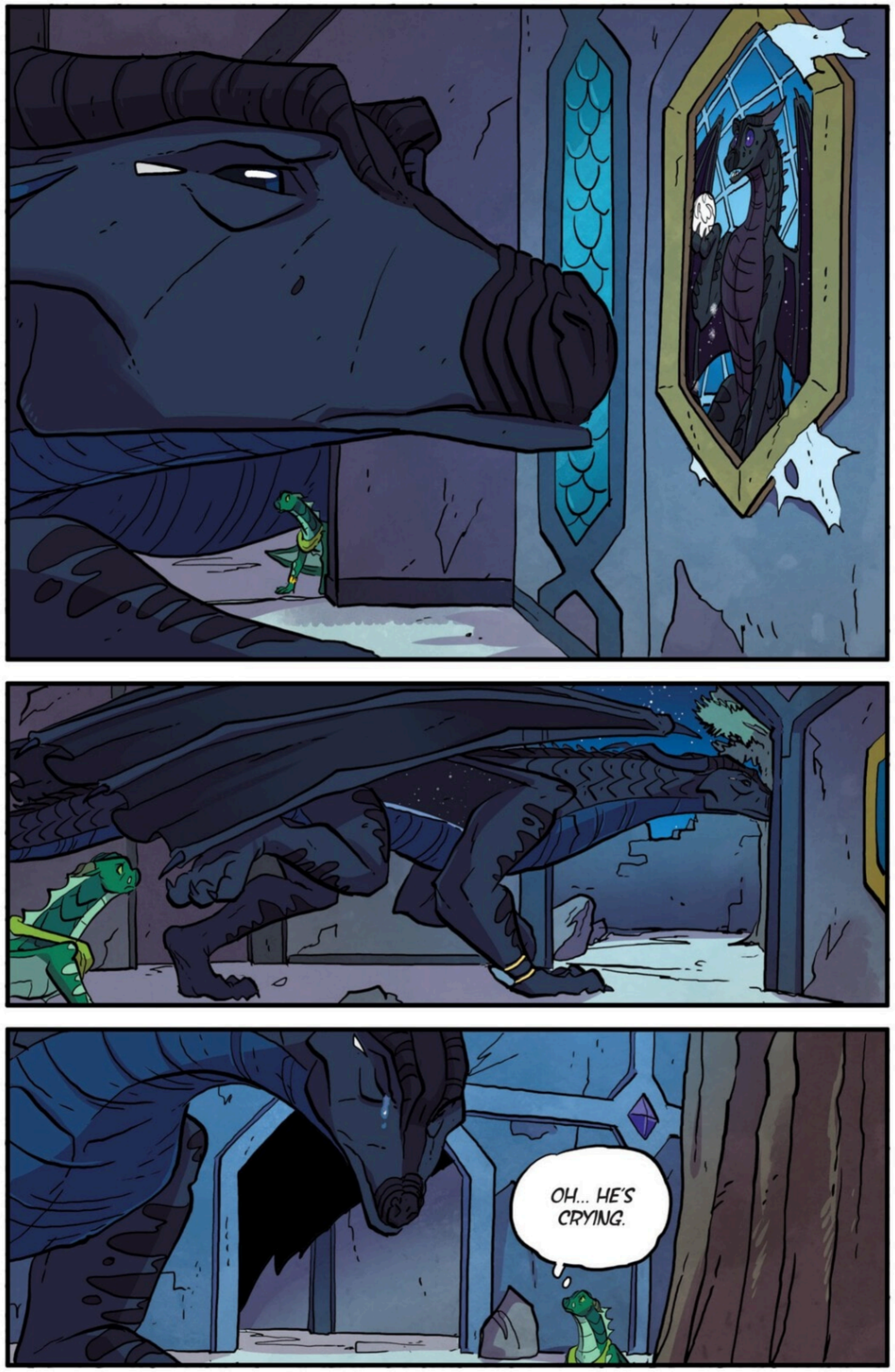

WHERE ARE THE NIGHTWINGS GOING?
THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS DIRECTION BUT MORE SAND AND OCEAN. HOW MUCH FARTHER CAN IT BE?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
WE CAN SLEEP IN THIS CAVE. THEY WON'T NOTICE US HERE.
GOOD THINKING, KINKAJOU.
DID I JUST IMAGINE THAT KINKAJOU MANEUVERED TO BE SLEEPING NEXT TO ME?
WHAT IS DARKSTALKER GOING TO DO NEXT?
I CAN'T SLEEP. I'M TOO WORRIED.
SIGH
UH-OH. DARKSTALKER'S HEADING SOMEWHERE BY HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM.

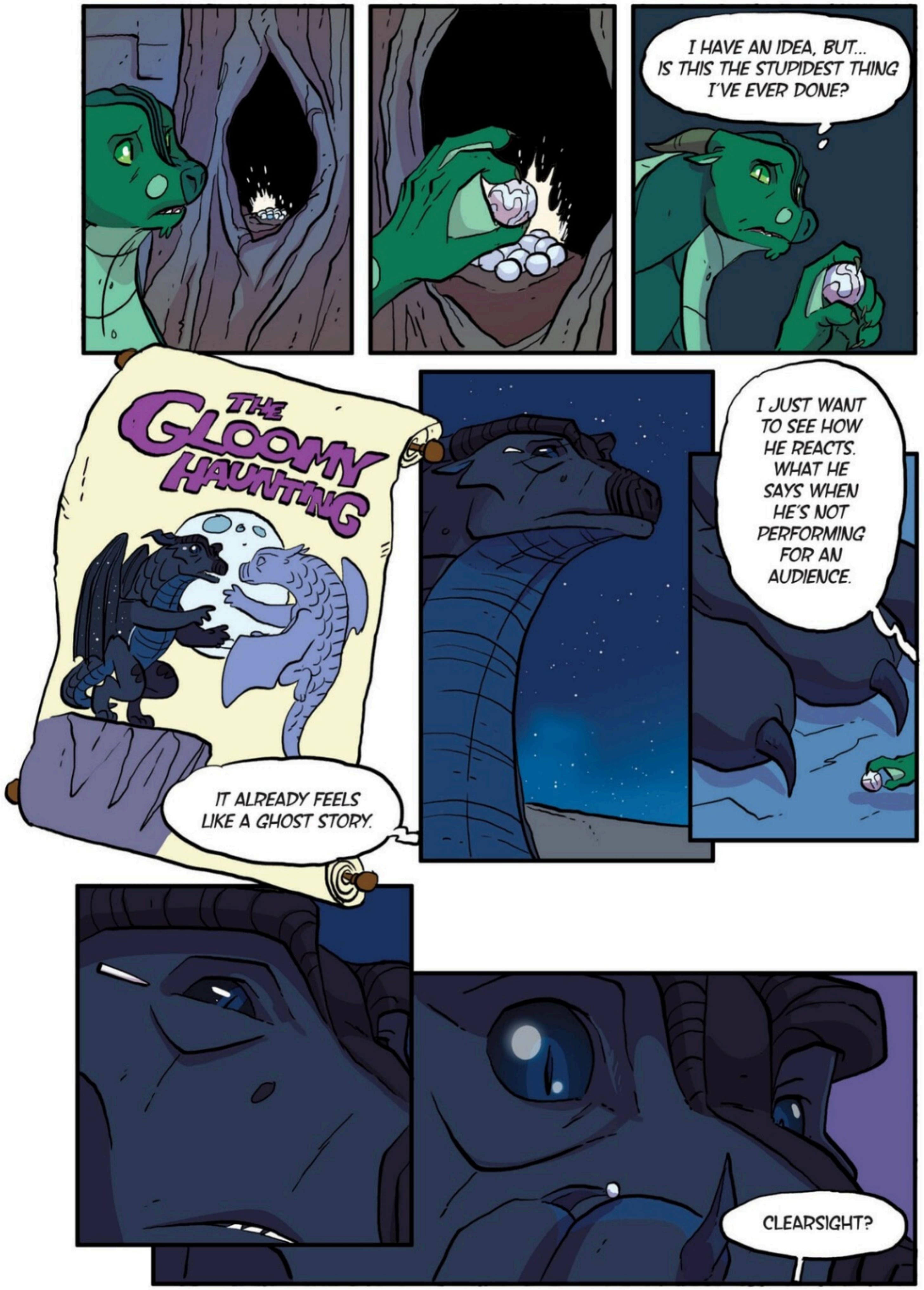
PART THREE: THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT

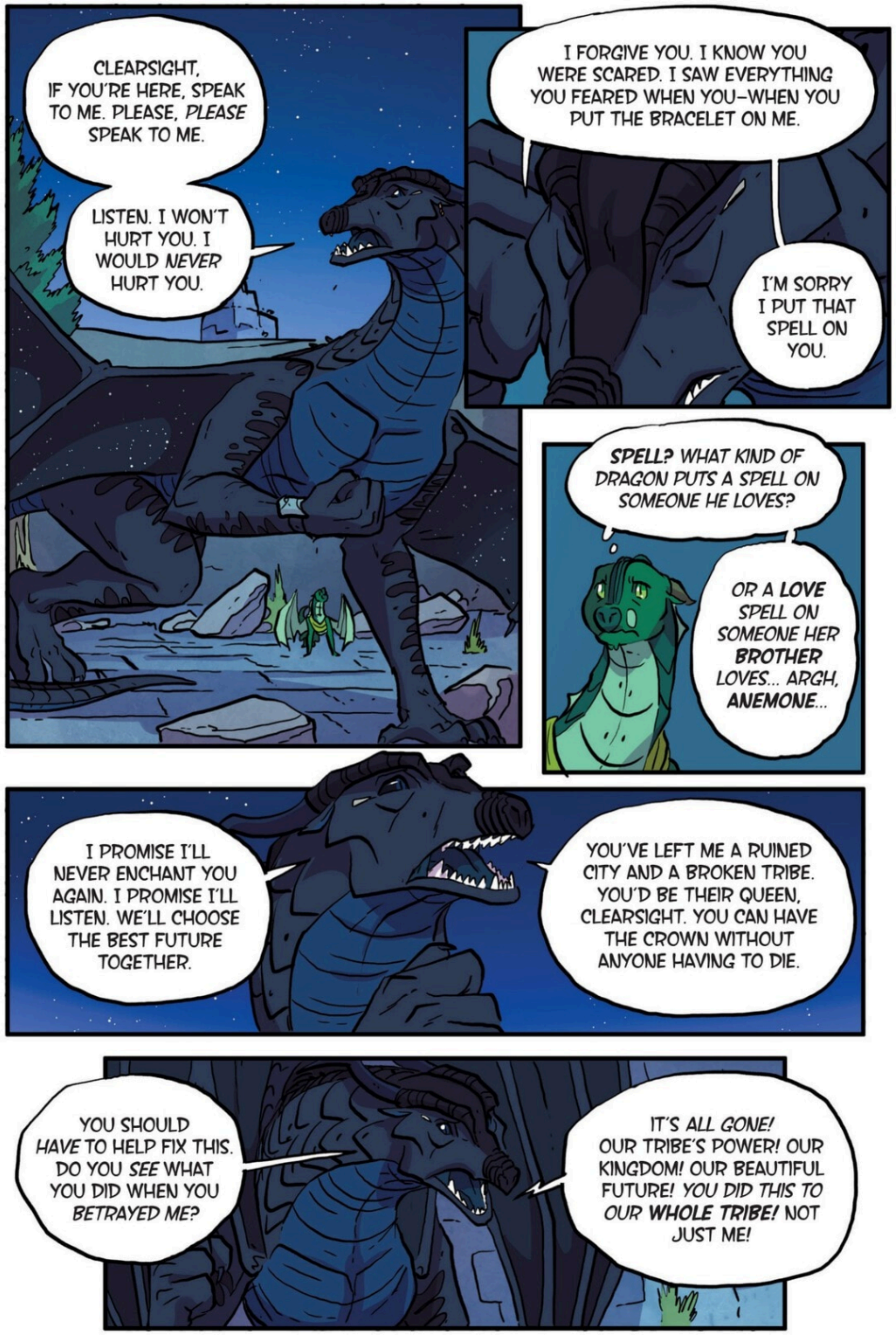

WHY AM I SO TERRIFIED? THIS IS NOTHING BUT **SNEAKING AROUND** AND **EAVESDROPPING**. THE ONE THING I'M **GOOD** AT.
OH... I REMEMBER NOW, THERE'S A SMALL PENINSULA ON THE MAP OF PYRRHIA, BY THE KINGDOM OF SAND.
Kingdom of Sand
HAS NOBODY CROSSED THESE MOUNTAINS IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS?
OW!
WHAT **WAS** THAT? FELT LIKE AN ELECTRIC EEL. ARE THOSE **BONES** DOWN THERE?
THE NIGHTWING CITY!
EVERYTHING'S IN RUINS...
E
S
N
W

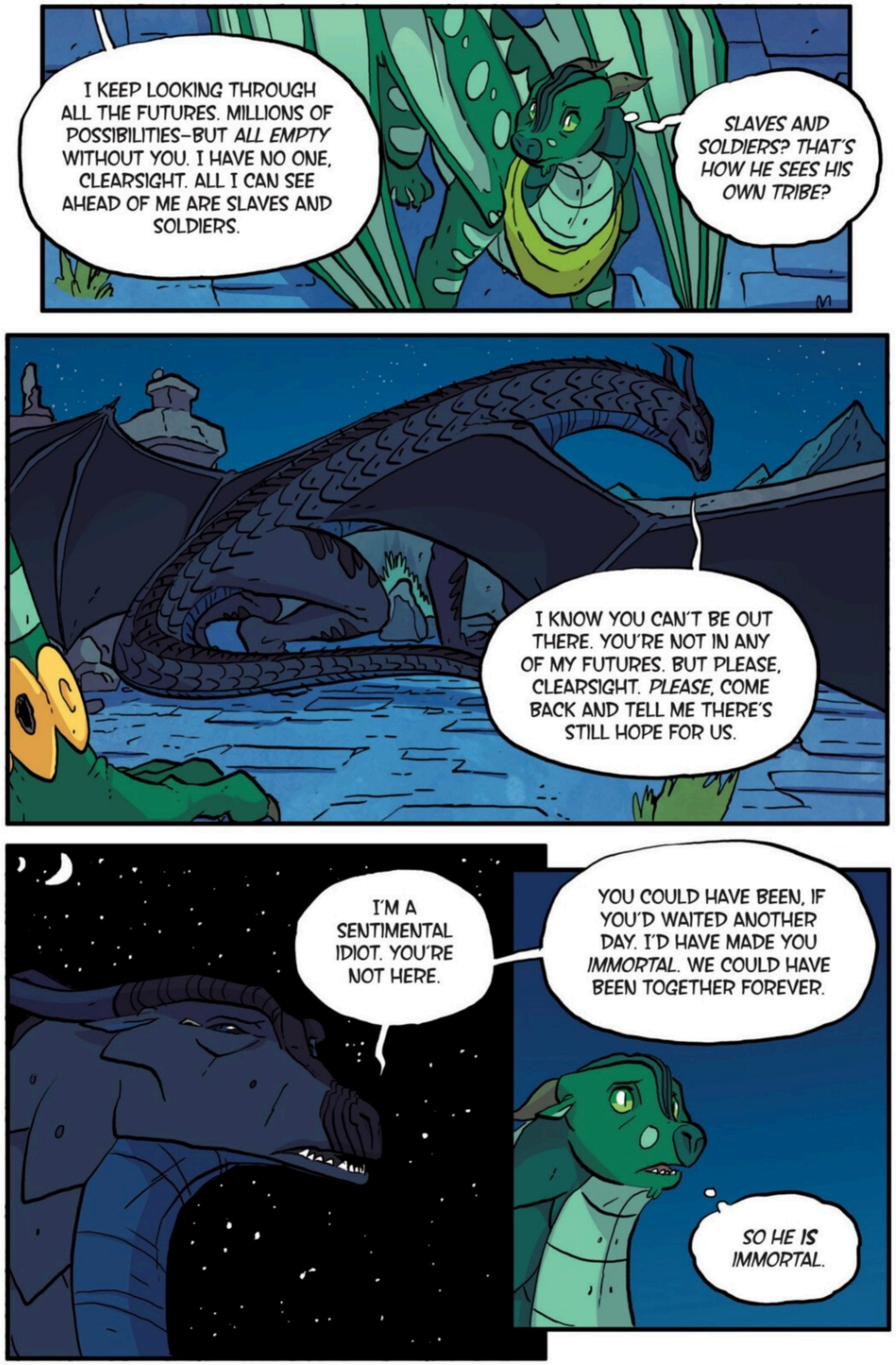

DARKSTALKER MUST FEEL LIKE HE WAS JUST HERE. IT'S LIKE IF I RETURNED TO THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA TOMORROW AND FOUND THAT EVERYTHING I'D KNOWN HAD BEEN DESTROYED OVERNIGHT.

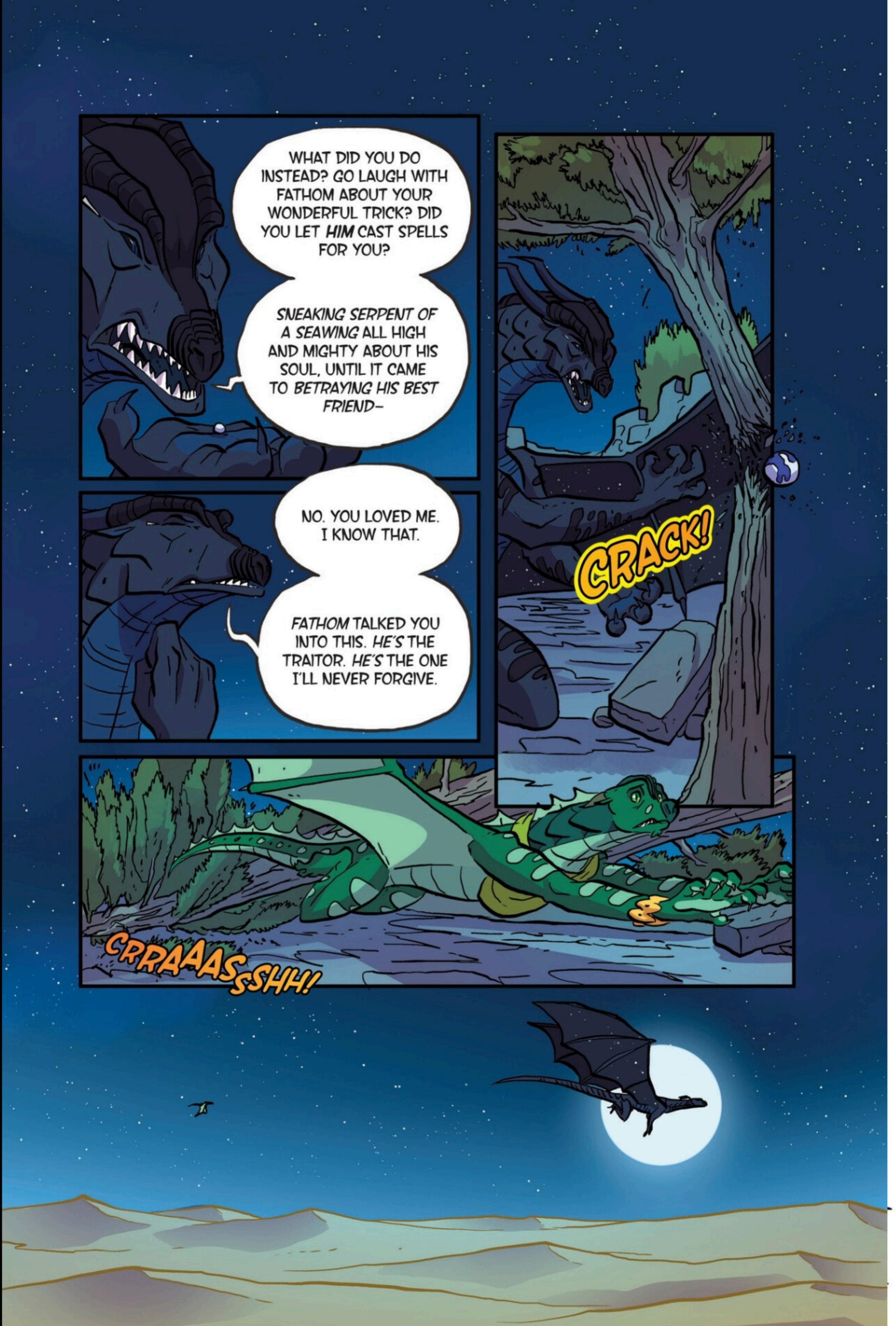

I THINK THIS WAS A SCHOOL.
HOW OLD WAS DARKSTALKER WHEN CLEARSIGHT PUT THE SLEEPING SPELL ON HIM? WAS HE MY AGE?
FWWWOOOOSH!
IS THAT CLEARSIGHT?

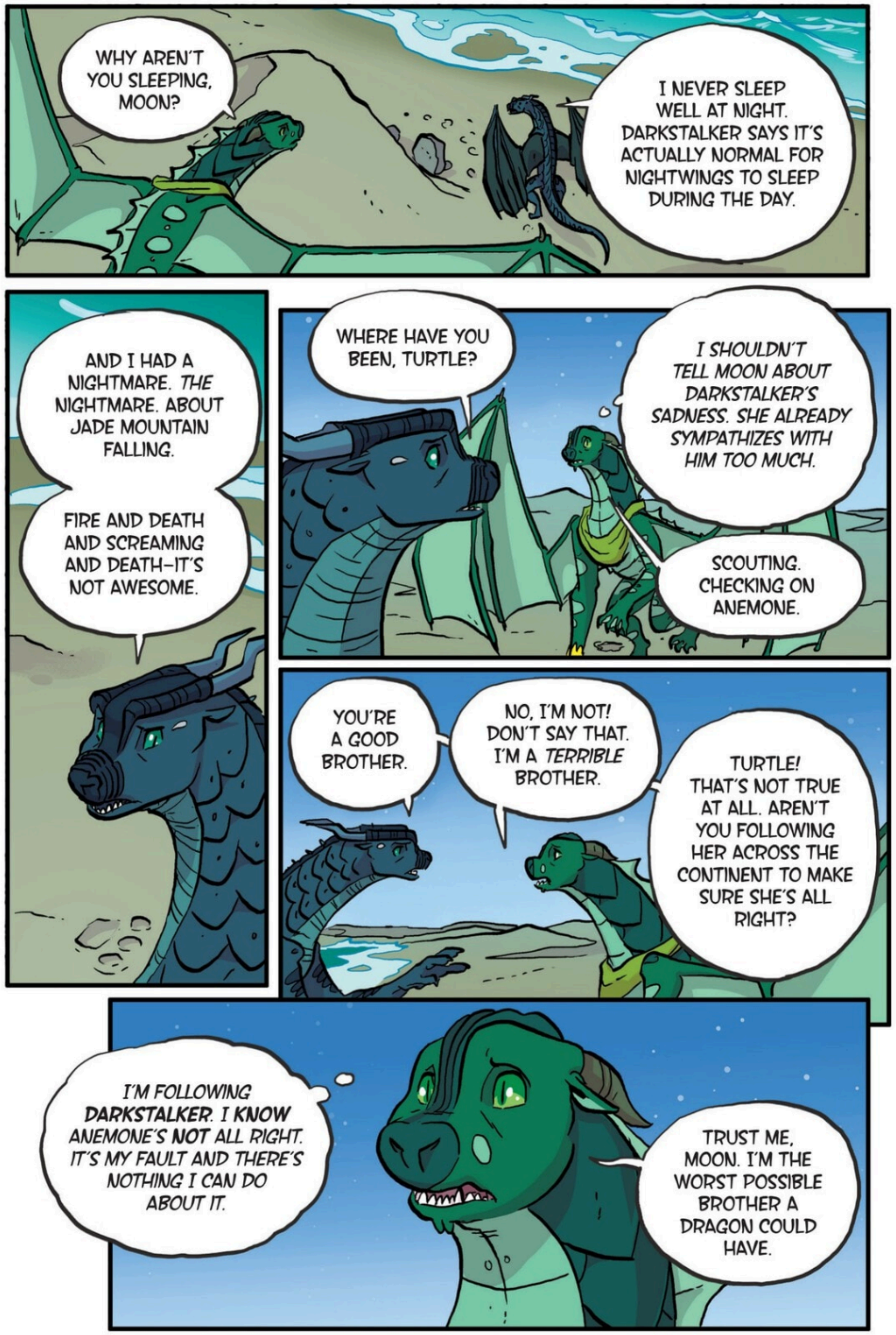

OH... HE'S CRYING.

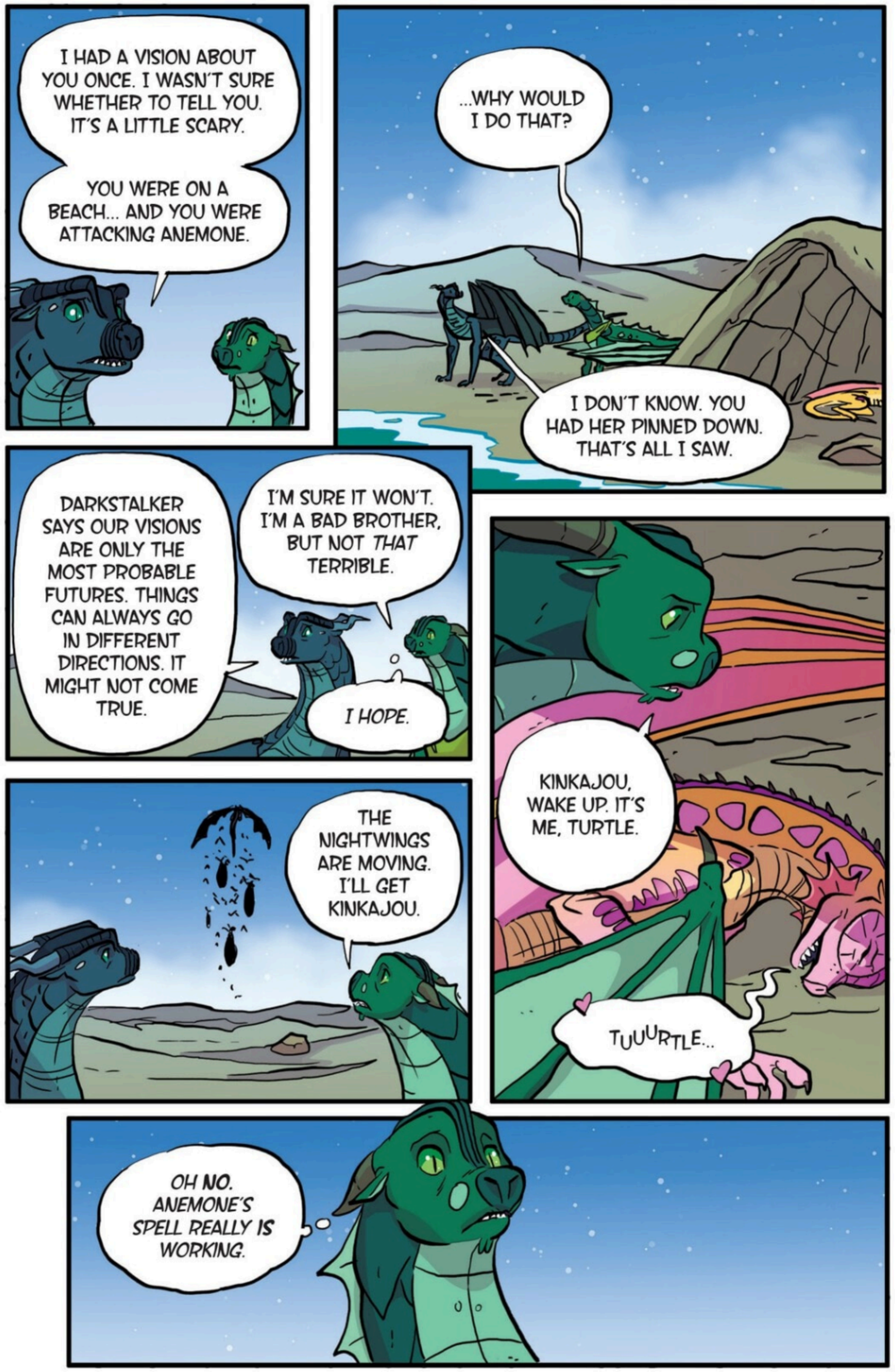

I HAVE AN IDEA, BUT... IS THIS THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER DONE?
THE GLOOMY HAUNTING
IT ALREADY FEELS LIKE A GHOST STORY.
I JUST WANT TO SEE HOW HE REACTS. WHAT HE SAYS WHEN HE'S NOT PERFORMING FOR AN AUDIENCE.
CLEARSIGHT?

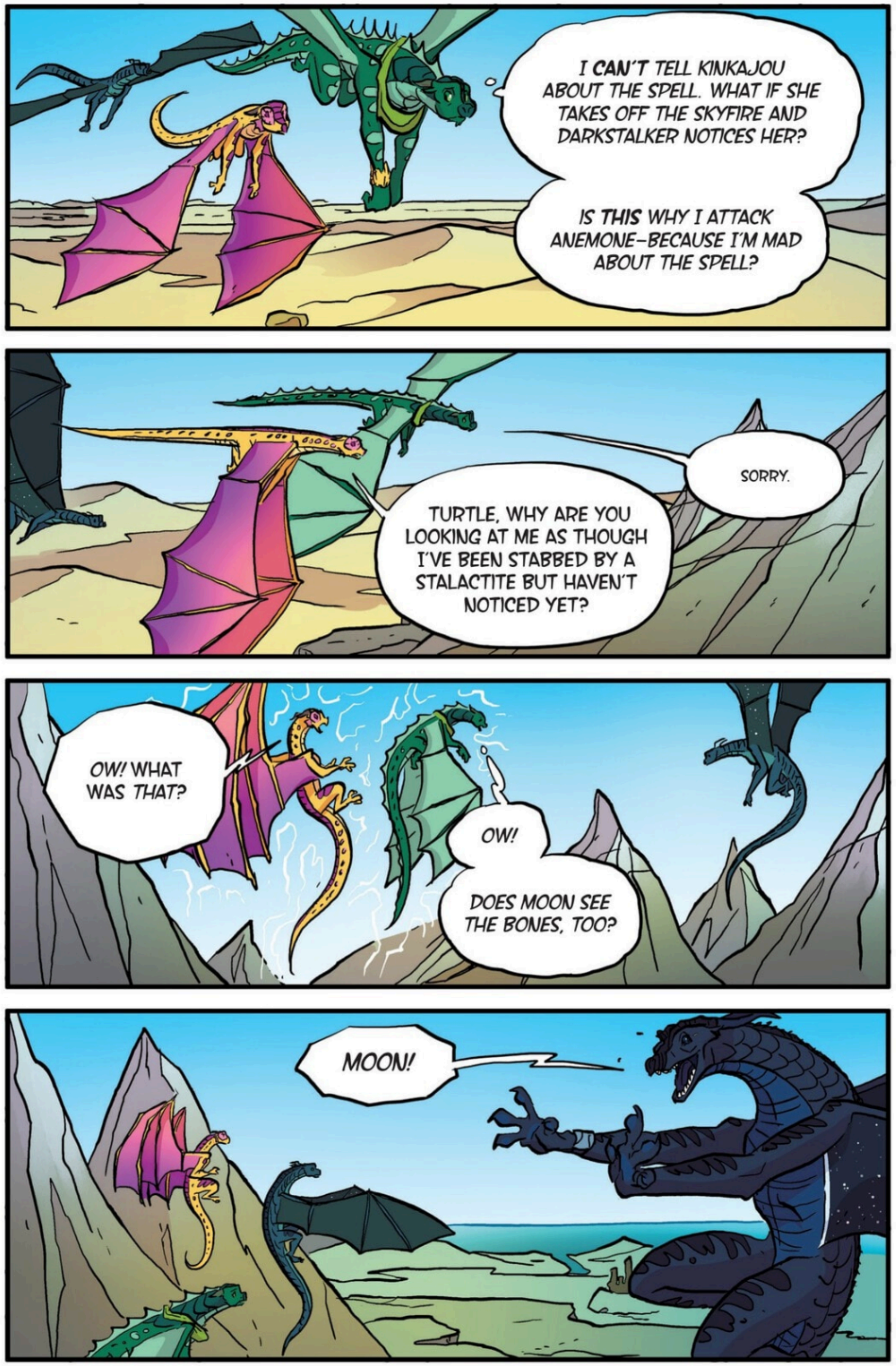

CLEARSIGHT, IF YOU'RE HERE, SPEAK TO ME. PLEASE, *PLEASE* SPEAK TO ME.
LISTEN. I WON'T HURT YOU. I WOULD *NEVER* HURT YOU.
I FORGIVE YOU. I KNOW YOU WERE SCARED. I SAW EVERYTHING YOU FEARED WHEN YOU—WHEN YOU PUT THE BRACELET ON ME.
I'M SORRY I PUT THAT SPELL ON YOU.
SPELL? *WHAT KIND OF DRAGON PUTS A SPELL ON SOMEONE HE LOVES?*
OR A ***LOVE*** *SPELL ON SOMEONE HER* ***BROTHER*** *LOVES... ARGH,* ***ANEMONE****...*
I PROMISE I'LL NEVER ENCHANT YOU AGAIN. I PROMISE I'LL LISTEN. WE'LL CHOOSE THE BEST FUTURE TOGETHER.
YOU'VE LEFT ME A RUINED CITY AND A BROKEN TRIBE. YOU'D BE THEIR QUEEN, CLEARSIGHT. YOU CAN HAVE THE CROWN WITHOUT ANYONE HAVING TO DIE.
YOU SHOULD *HAVE* TO HELP FIX THIS. DO YOU *SEE* WHAT YOU DID WHEN YOU *BETRAYED ME?*
IT'S ALL GONE! OUR TRIBE'S POWER! OUR KINGDOM! OUR BEAUTIFUL FUTURE! *YOU DID THIS TO OUR* ***WHOLE TRIBE!*** NOT JUST ME!

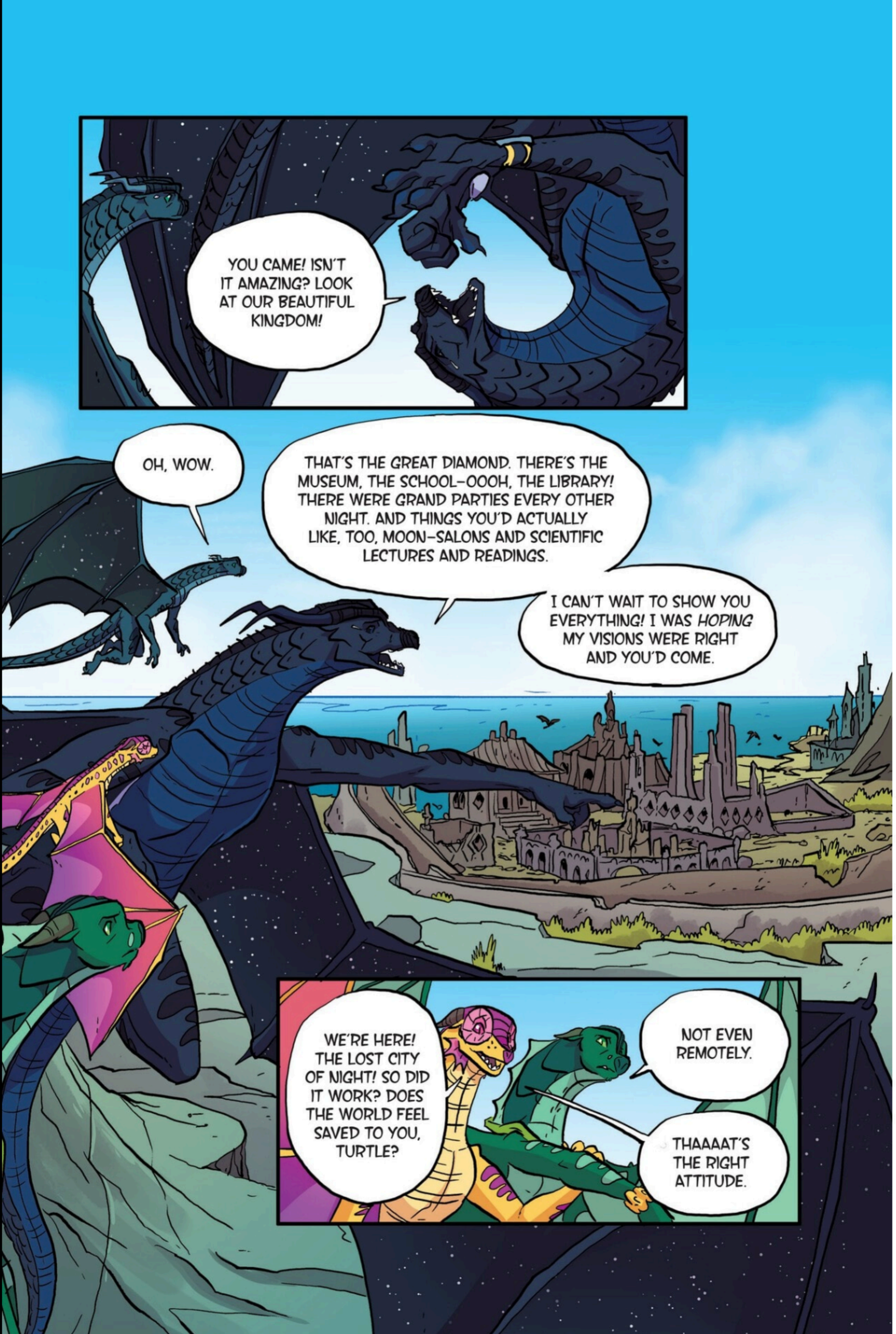

I KEEP LOOKING THROUGH ALL THE FUTURES. MILLIONS OF POSSIBILITIES—BUT *ALL EMPTY* WITHOUT YOU. I HAVE NO ONE, CLEARSIGHT. ALL I CAN SEE AHEAD OF ME ARE SLAVES AND SOLDIERS.
SLAVES AND SOLDIERS? THAT'S HOW HE SEES HIS OWN TRIBE?
I KNOW YOU CAN'T BE OUT THERE. YOU'RE NOT IN ANY OF MY FUTURES. BUT PLEASE, CLEARSIGHT. *PLEASE*, COME BACK AND TELL ME THERE'S STILL HOPE FOR US.
I'M A SENTIMENTAL IDIOT. YOU'RE NOT HERE.
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN, IF YOU'D WAITED ANOTHER DAY. I'D HAVE MADE YOU *IMMORTAL*. WE COULD HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOREVER.
SO HE ***IS*** *IMMORTAL.*

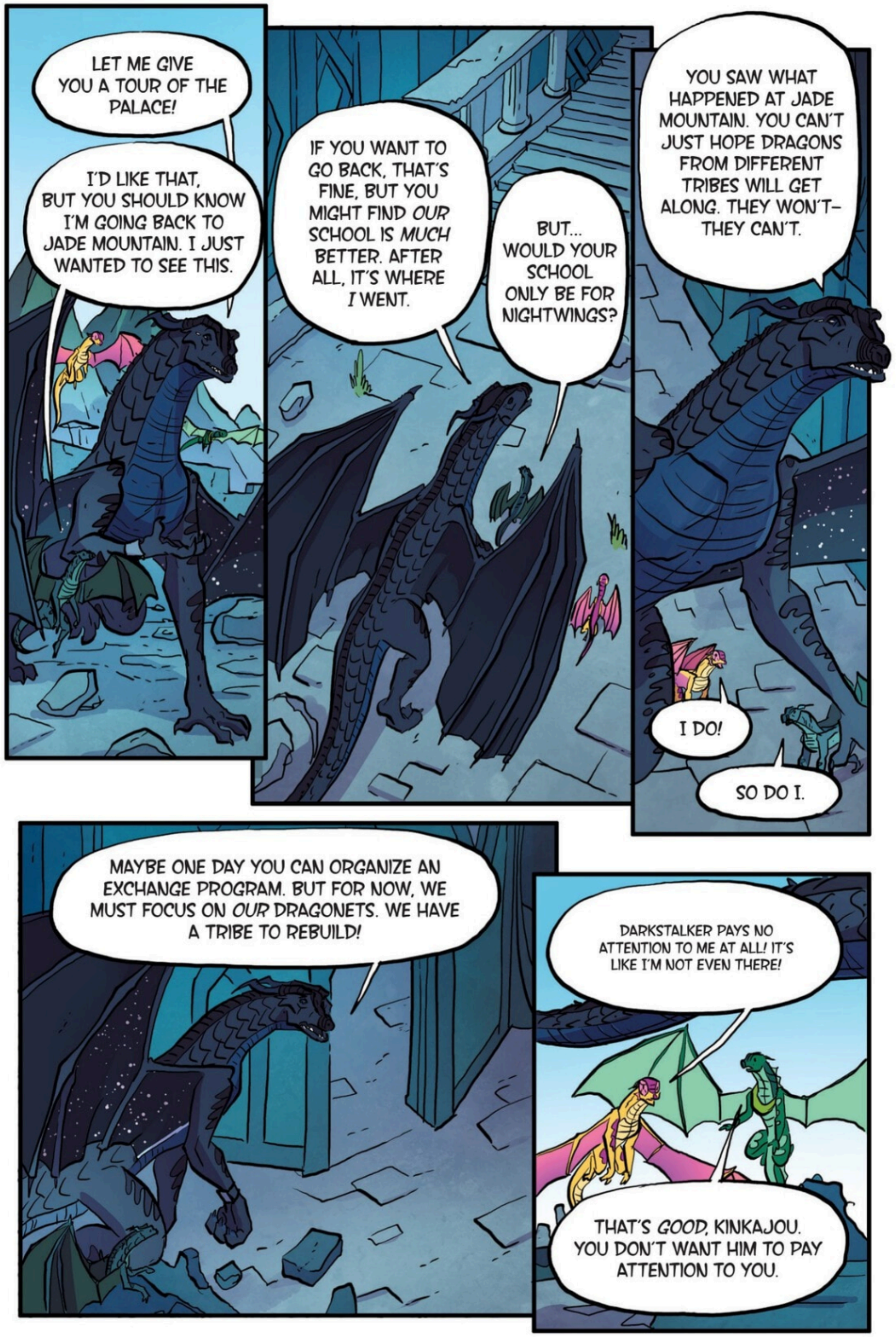

WHAT DID YOU DO INSTEAD? GO LAUGH WITH FATHOM ABOUT YOUR WONDERFUL TRICK? DID YOU LET **HIM** CAST SPELLS FOR YOU?
SNEAKING SERPENT OF A SEAWING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT HIS SOUL, UNTIL IT CAME TO *BETRAYING HIS BEST FRIEND*—
NO. YOU LOVED ME. I KNOW THAT.
FATHOM TALKED YOU INTO THIS. *HE'S* THE TRAITOR. *HE'S* THE ONE I'LL NEVER FORGIVE.
CRACK!
CRRAAASSSHH!

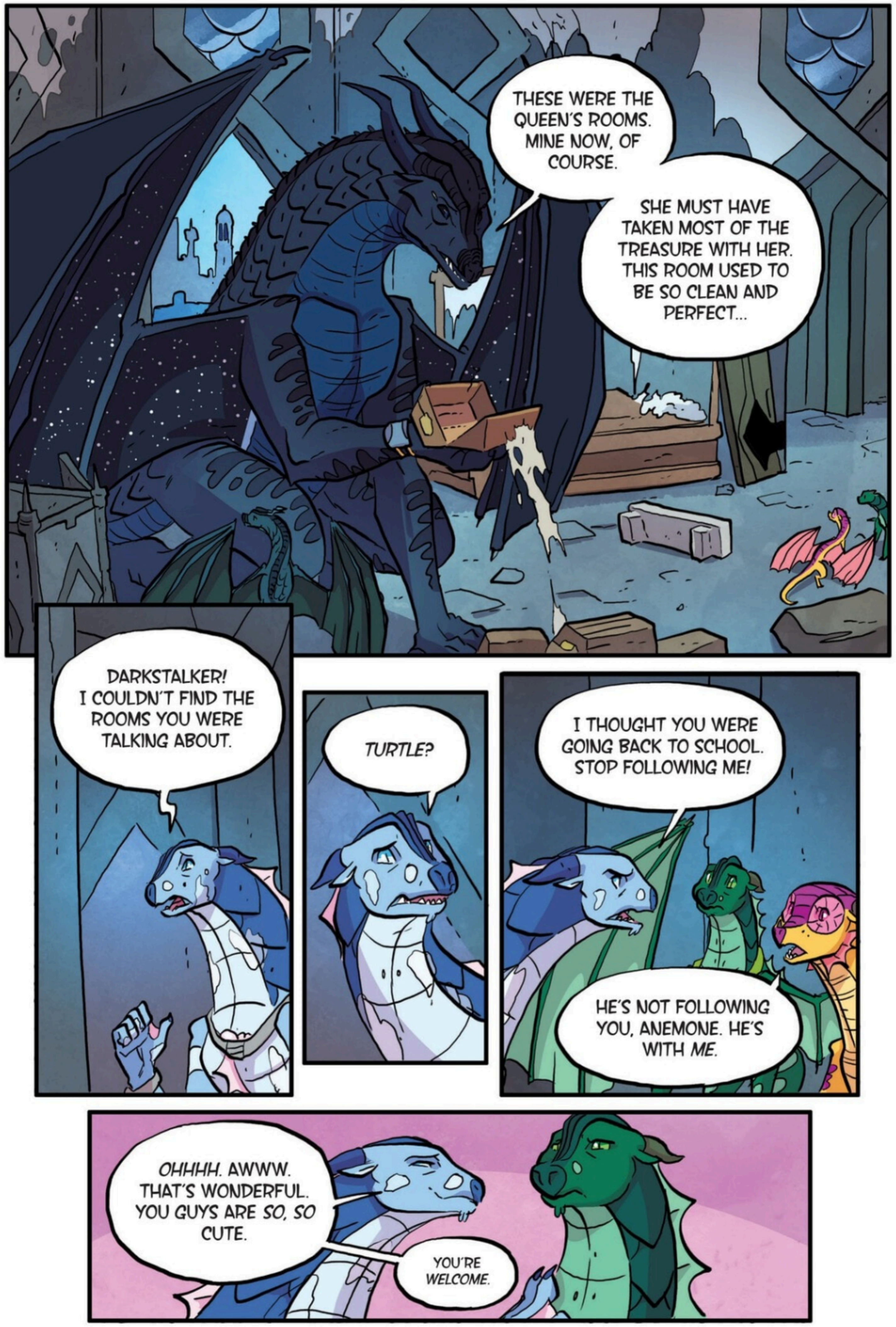

WHY AREN'T YOU SLEEPING, MOON?
I NEVER SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT. DARKSTALKER SAYS IT'S ACTUALLY NORMAL FOR NIGHTWINGS TO SLEEP DURING THE DAY.
AND I HAD A NIGHTMARE. *THE* NIGHTMARE. ABOUT JADE MOUNTAIN FALLING.
FIRE AND DEATH AND SCREAMING AND DEATH—IT'S NOT AWESOME.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, TURTLE?
I SHOULDN'T TELL MOON ABOUT DARKSTALKER'S SADNESS. SHE ALREADY SYMPATHIZES WITH HIM TOO MUCH.
SCOUTING. CHECKING ON ANEMONE.
YOU'RE A GOOD BROTHER.
NO, I'M NOT! DON'T SAY THAT. I'M A *TERRIBLE* BROTHER.
TURTLE! THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL. AREN'T YOU FOLLOWING HER ACROSS THE CONTINENT TO MAKE SURE SHE'S ALL RIGHT?
I'M FOLLOWING ***DARKSTALKER****. I* ***KNOW*** *ANEMONE'S* ***NOT*** *ALL RIGHT. IT'S MY FAULT AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.*
TRUST ME, MOON. I'M THE WORST POSSIBLE BROTHER A DRAGON COULD HAVE.

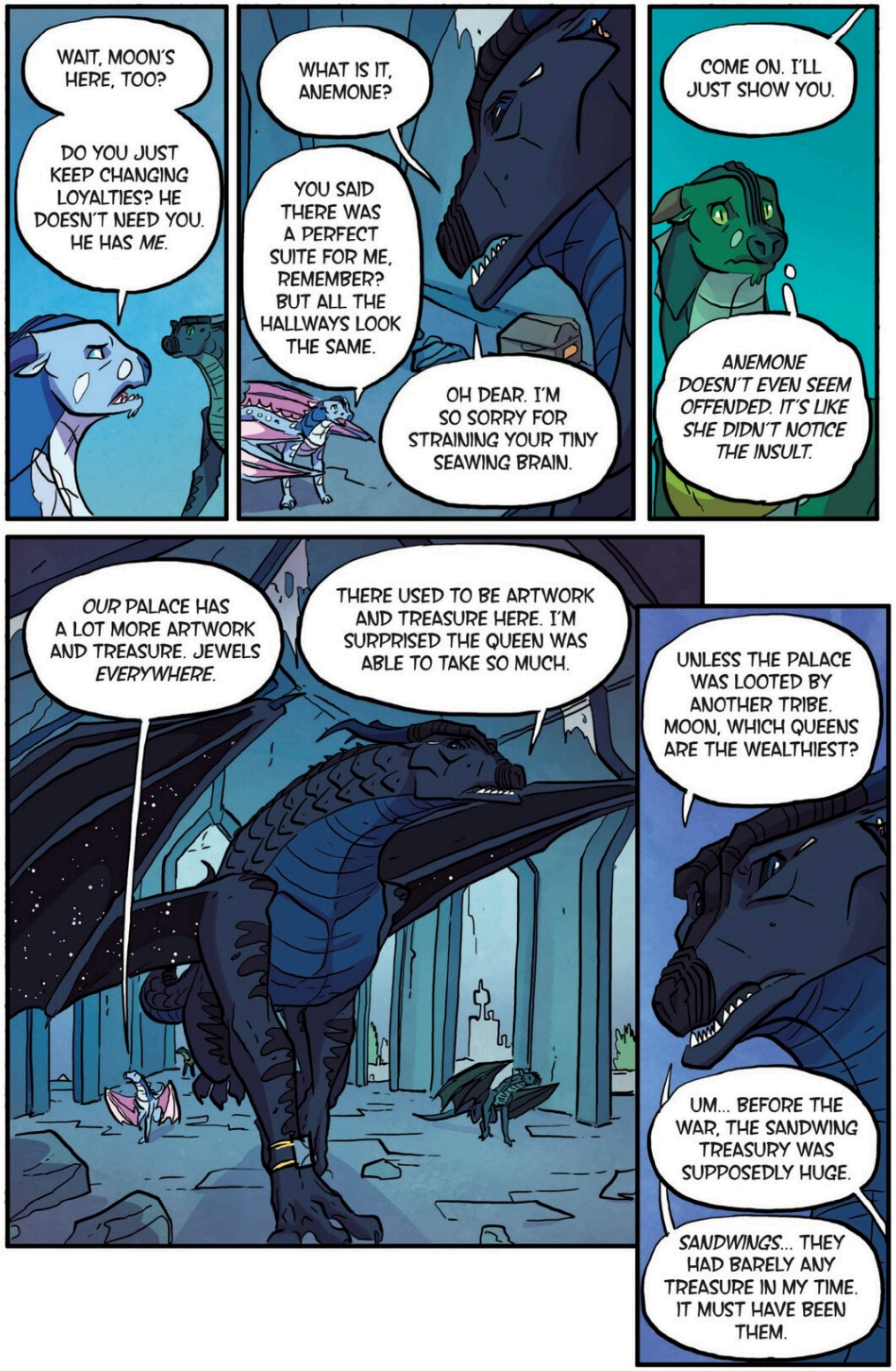

I HAD A VISION ABOUT YOU ONCE. I WASN'T SURE WHETHER TO TELL YOU. IT'S A LITTLE SCARY.
YOU WERE ON A BEACH... AND YOU WERE ATTACKING ANEMONE.
...WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. YOU HAD HER PINNED DOWN. THAT'S ALL I SAW.
DARKSTALKER SAYS OUR VISIONS ARE ONLY THE MOST PROBABLE FUTURES. THINGS CAN ALWAYS GO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. IT MIGHT NOT COME TRUE.
I'M SURE IT WON'T. I'M A BAD BROTHER, BUT NOT *THAT* TERRIBLE.
I HOPE.
THE NIGHTWINGS ARE MOVING. I'LL GET KINKAJOU.
KINKAJOU, WAKE UP. IT'S ME, TURTLE.
TUUURTLE...
OH **NO.** *ANEMONE'S SPELL REALLY* **IS** *WORKING.*

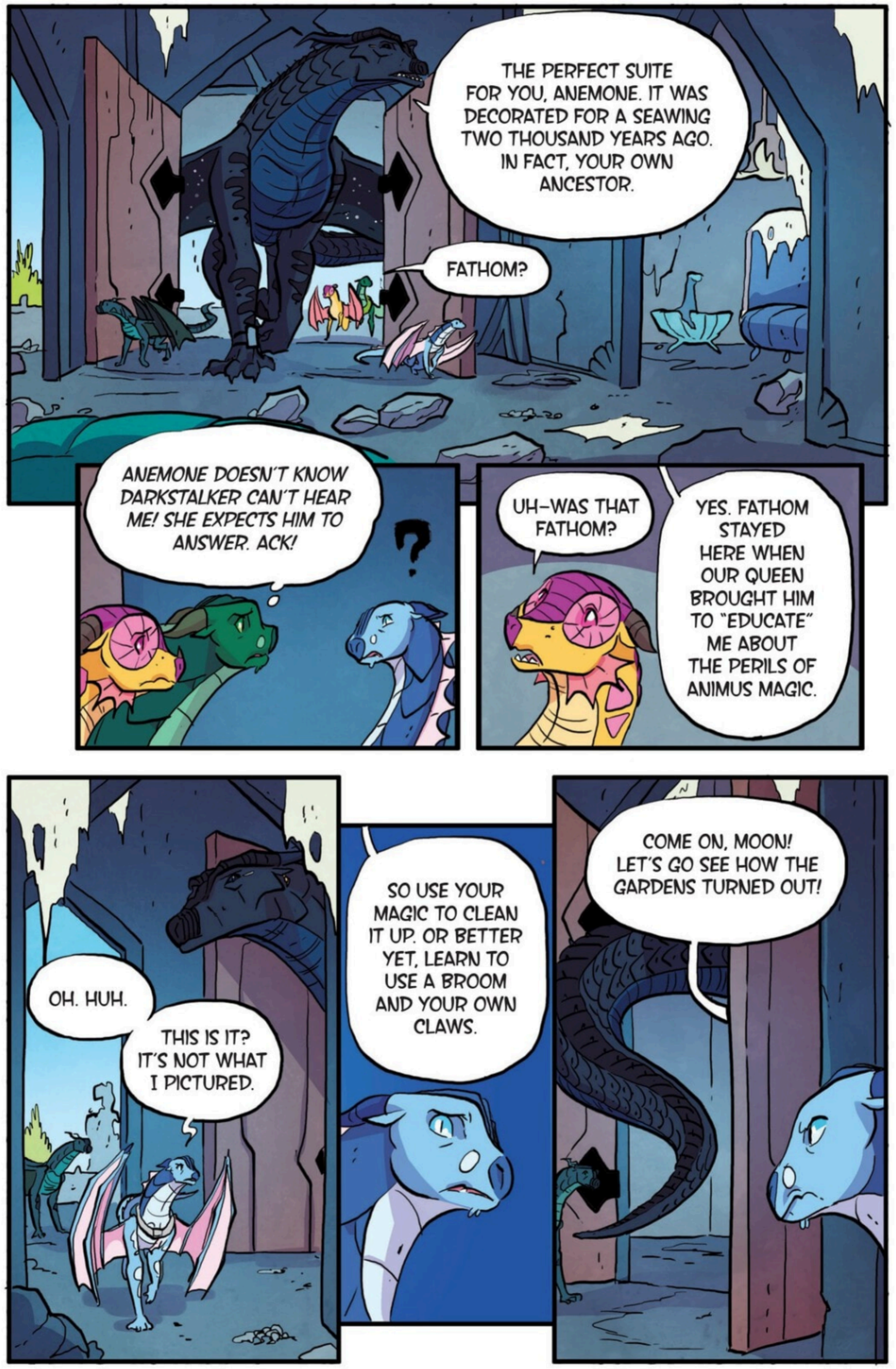

I **CAN'T** *TELL KINKAJOU ABOUT THE SPELL. WHAT IF SHE TAKES OFF THE SKYFIRE AND DARKSTALKER NOTICES HER?*
IS **THIS** *WHY I ATTACK ANEMONE—BECAUSE I'M MAD ABOUT THE SPELL?*
SORRY.
TURTLE, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN STABBED BY A STALACTITE BUT HAVEN'T NOTICED YET?
OW! WHAT WAS *THAT?*
OW!
DOES MOON SEE THE BONES, TOO?
MOON!

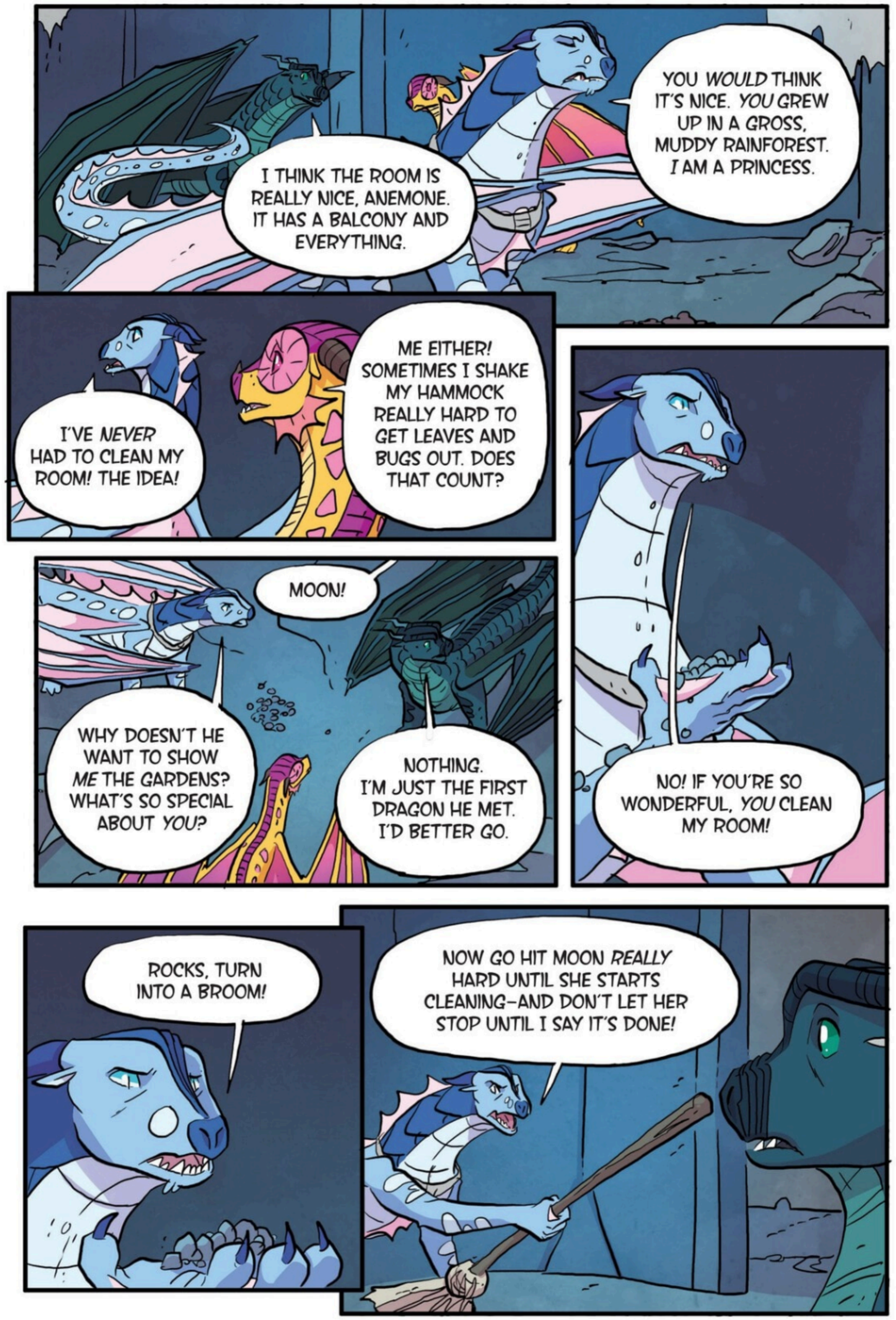

YOU CAME! ISN'T IT AMAZING? LOOK AT OUR BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM!
OH, WOW.
THAT'S THE GREAT DIAMOND. THERE'S THE MUSEUM, THE SCHOOL—OOOH, THE LIBRARY! THERE WERE GRAND PARTIES EVERY OTHER NIGHT. AND THINGS YOU'D ACTUALLY LIKE, TOO, MOON-SALONS AND SCIENTIFIC LECTURES AND READINGS.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING! I WAS *HOPING* MY VISIONS WERE RIGHT AND YOU'D COME.
WE'RE HERE! THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT! SO DID IT WORK? DOES THE WORLD FEEL SAVED TO YOU, TURTLE?
NOT EVEN REMOTELY.
THAAAAT'S THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

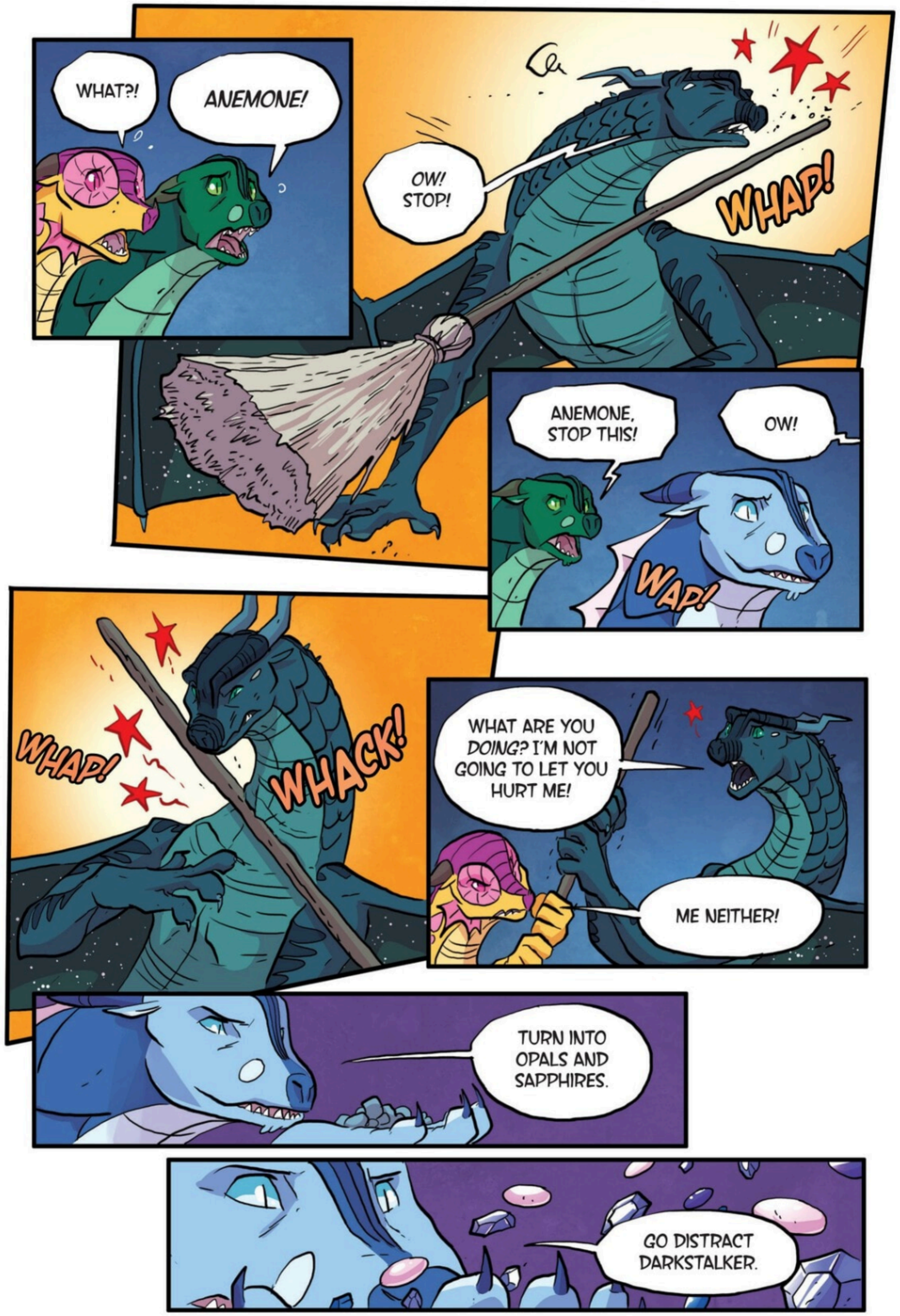

LET ME GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE PALACE!
I'D LIKE THAT, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M GOING BACK TO JADE MOUNTAIN. I JUST WANTED TO SEE THIS.
IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK, THAT'S FINE, BUT YOU MIGHT FIND *OUR* SCHOOL IS *MUCH* BETTER. AFTER ALL, IT'S WHERE *I* WENT.
BUT... WOULD YOUR SCHOOL ONLY BE FOR NIGHTWINGS?
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED AT JADE MOUNTAIN. YOU CAN'T JUST HOPE DRAGONS FROM DIFFERENT TRIBES WILL GET ALONG. THEY WON'T—THEY CAN'T.
I DO!
SO DO I.
MAYBE ONE DAY YOU CAN ORGANIZE AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. BUT FOR NOW, WE MUST FOCUS ON *OUR* DRAGONETS. WE HAVE A TRIBE TO REBUILD!
DARKSTALKER PAYS NO ATTENTION TO ME AT ALL! IT'S LIKE I'M NOT EVEN THERE!
THAT'S *GOOD*, KINKAJOU. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOU.

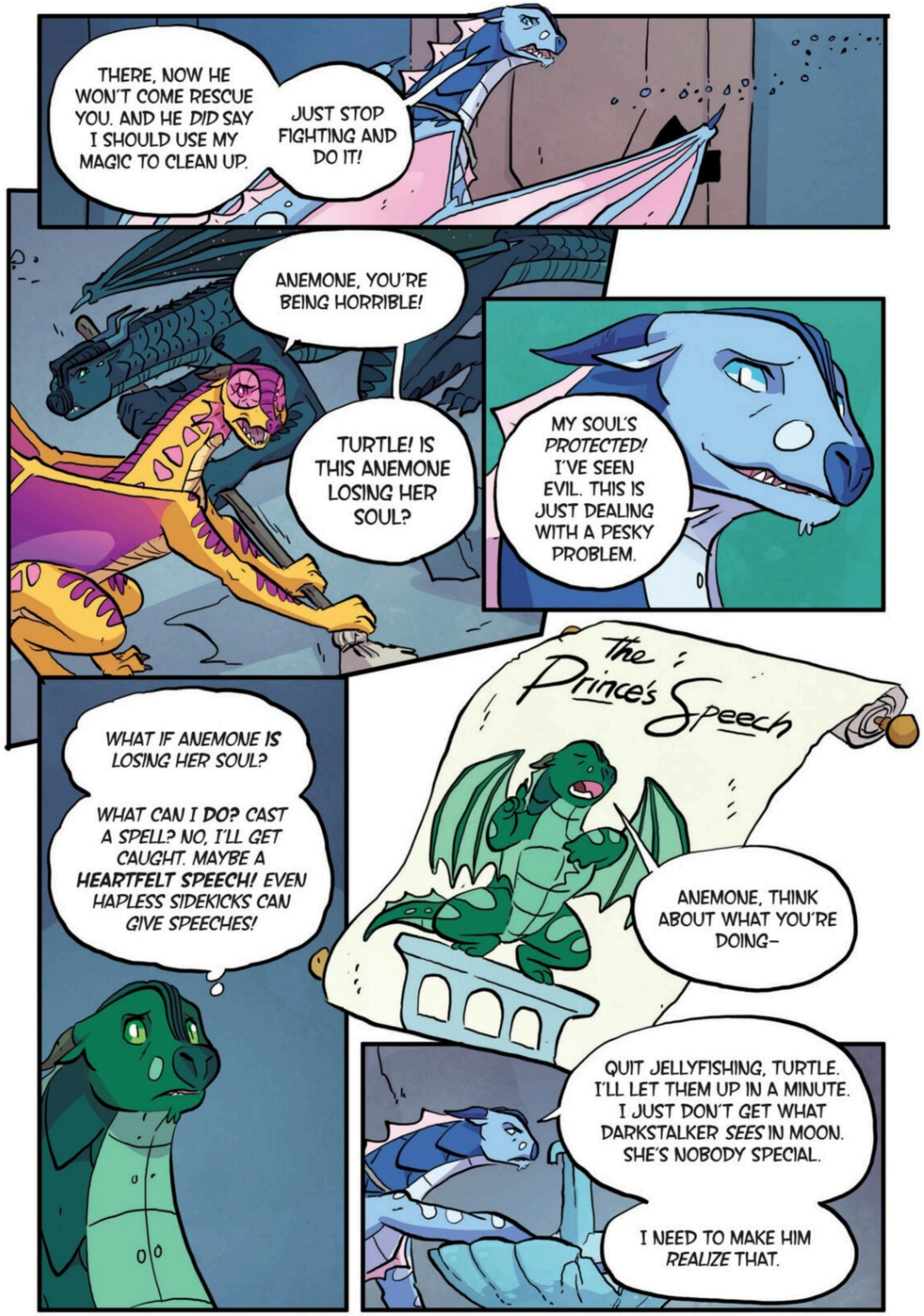

THESE WERE THE QUEEN'S ROOMS. MINE NOW, OF COURSE.
SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN MOST OF THE TREASURE WITH HER. THIS ROOM USED TO BE SO CLEAN AND PERFECT...
DARKSTALKER! I COULDN'T FIND THE ROOMS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.
TURTLE?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL. STOP FOLLOWING ME!
HE'S NOT FOLLOWING YOU, ANEMONE. HE'S WITH *ME*.
OHHHH. AWWW. THAT'S WONDERFUL. YOU GUYS ARE *SO, SO* CUTE.
YOU'RE WELCOME.

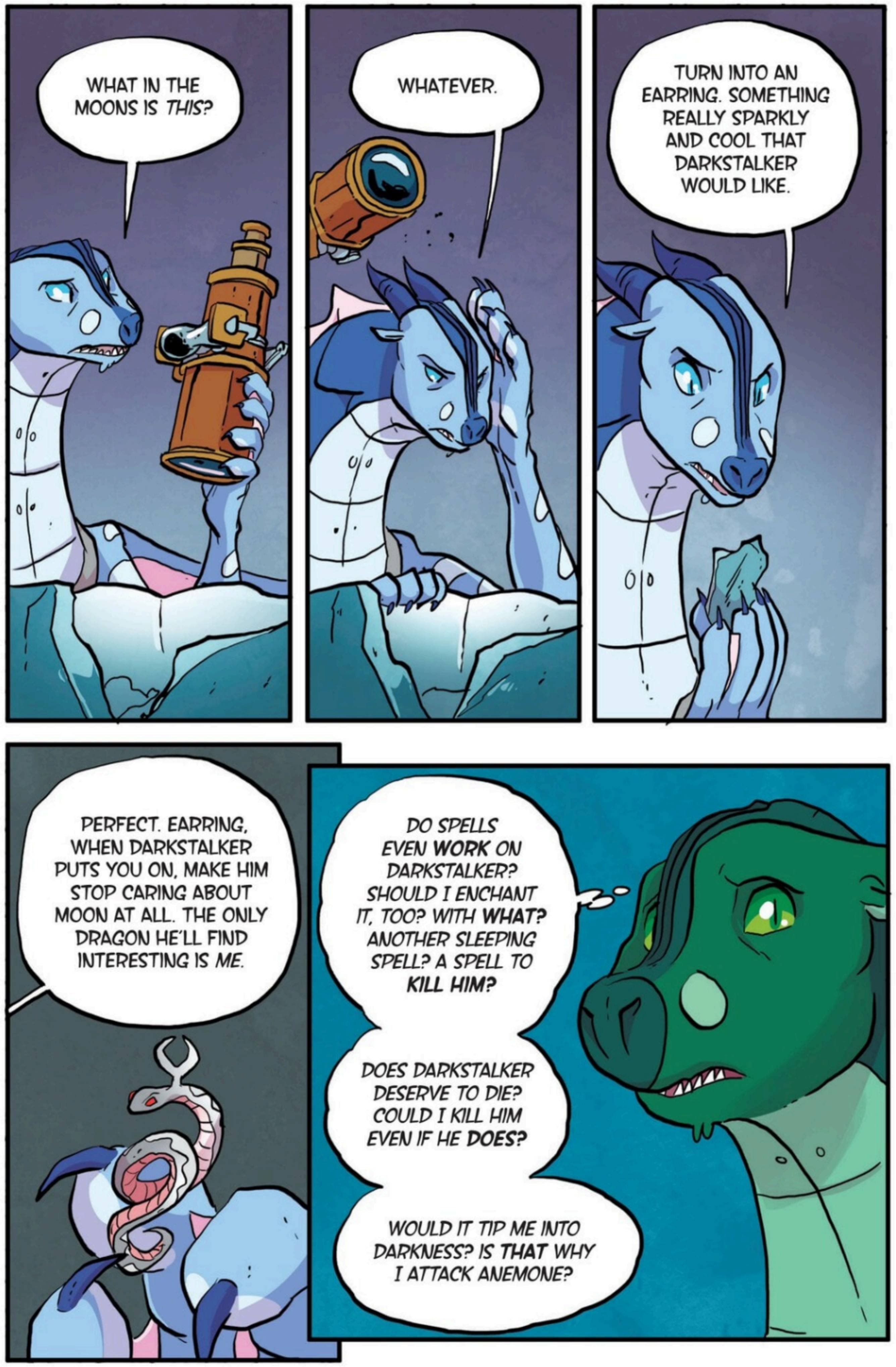

WAIT, MOON'S HERE, TOO?
DO YOU JUST KEEP CHANGING LOYALTIES? HE DOESN'T NEED YOU. HE HAS *ME*.
WHAT IS IT, ANEMONE?
YOU SAID THERE WAS A PERFECT SUITE FOR ME, REMEMBER? BUT ALL THE HALLWAYS LOOK THE SAME.
OH DEAR. I'M SO SORRY FOR STRAINING YOUR TINY SEAWING BRAIN.
COME ON. I'LL JUST SHOW YOU.
ANEMONE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM OFFENDED. IT'S LIKE SHE DIDN'T NOTICE THE INSULT.
OUR PALACE HAS A LOT MORE ARTWORK AND TREASURE. JEWELS *EVERYWHERE.*
THERE USED TO BE ARTWORK AND TREASURE HERE. I'M SURPRISED THE QUEEN WAS ABLE TO TAKE SO MUCH.
UNLESS THE PALACE WAS LOOTED BY ANOTHER TRIBE. MOON, WHICH QUEENS ARE THE WEALTHIEST?
UM... BEFORE THE WAR, THE SANDWING TREASURY WAS SUPPOSEDLY HUGE.
SANDWINGS... THEY HAD BARELY ANY TREASURE IN MY TIME. IT MUST HAVE BEEN THEM.

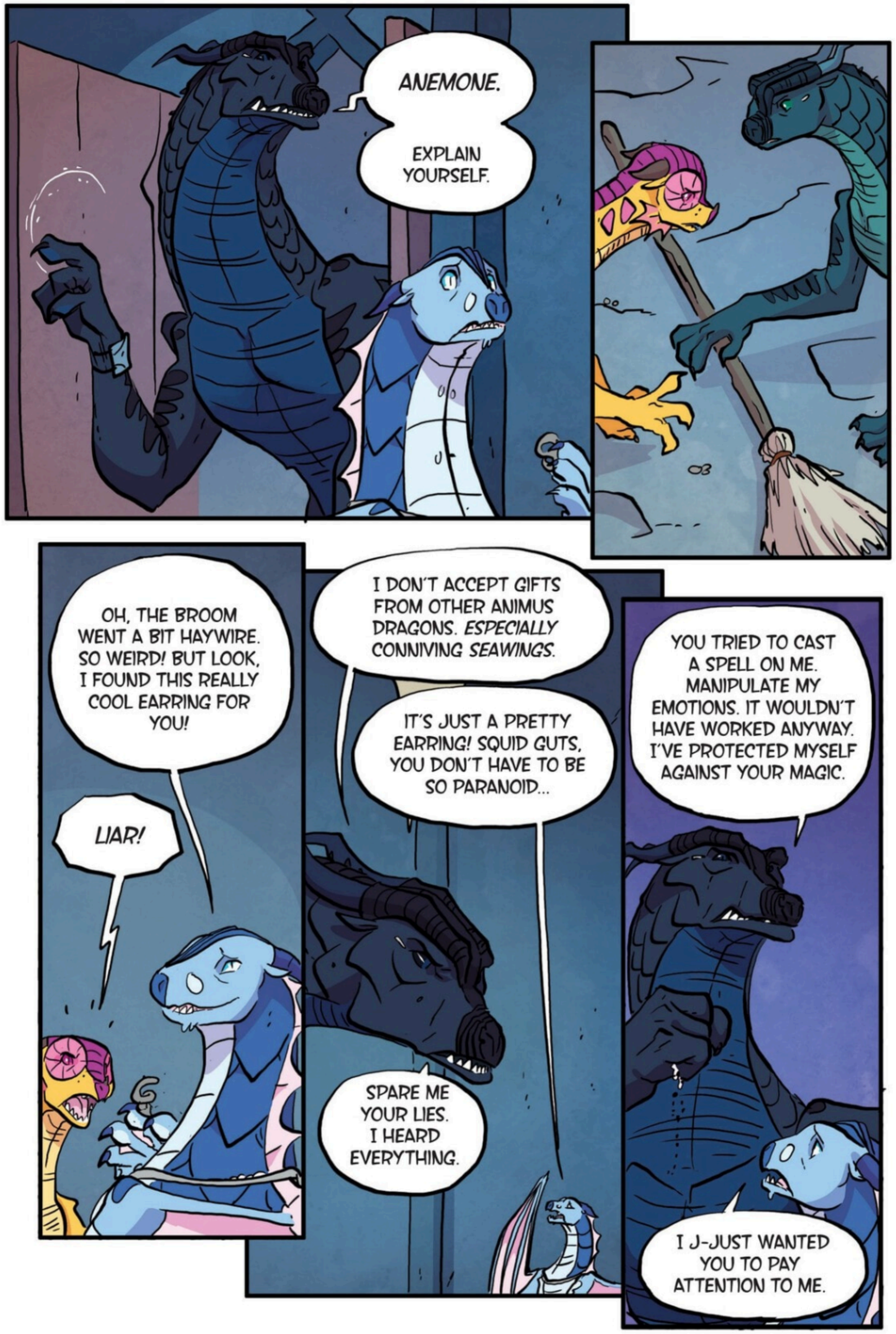

THE PERFECT SUITE FOR YOU, ANEMONE. IT WAS DECORATED FOR A SEAWING TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO. IN FACT, YOUR OWN ANCESTOR.
FATHOM?
ANEMONE DOESN'T KNOW DARKSTALKER CAN'T HEAR ME! SHE EXPECTS HIM TO ANSWER. ACK!
?
UH–WAS THAT FATHOM?
YES. FATHOM STAYED HERE WHEN OUR QUEEN BROUGHT HIM TO "EDUCATE" ME ABOUT THE PERILS OF ANIMUS MAGIC.
OH. HUH.
THIS IS IT? IT'S NOT WHAT I PICTURED.
SO USE YOUR MAGIC TO CLEAN IT UP. OR BETTER YET, LEARN TO USE A BROOM AND YOUR OWN CLAWS.
COME ON, MOON! LET'S GO SEE HOW THE GARDENS TURNED OUT!

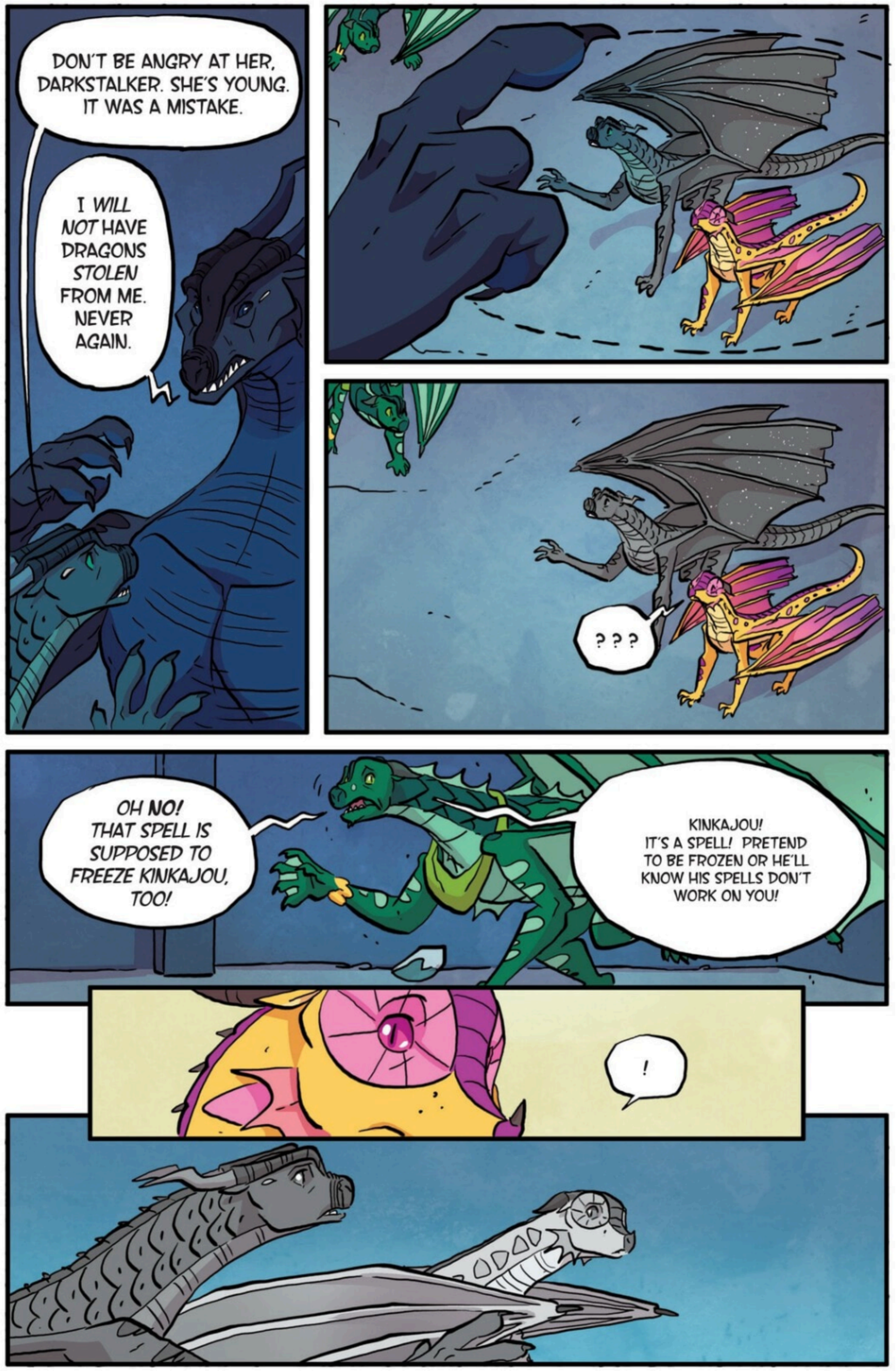

I THINK THE ROOM IS REALLY NICE, ANEMONE. IT HAS A BALCONY AND EVERYTHING.
YOU *WOULD* THINK IT'S NICE. *YOU* GREW UP IN A GROSS, MUDDY RAINFOREST. *I* AM A PRINCESS.
I'VE *NEVER* HAD TO CLEAN MY ROOM! THE IDEA!
ME EITHER! SOMETIMES I SHAKE MY HAMMOCK REALLY HARD TO GET LEAVES AND BUGS OUT. DOES THAT COUNT?
MOON!
WHY DOESN'T HE WANT TO SHOW *ME* THE GARDENS? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT *YOU*?
NOTHING. I'M JUST THE FIRST DRAGON HE MET. I'D BETTER GO.
NO! IF YOU'RE SO WONDERFUL, *YOU* CLEAN MY ROOM!
ROCKS, TURN INTO A BROOM!
NOW GO HIT MOON *REALLY* HARD UNTIL SHE STARTS CLEANING–AND DON'T LET HER STOP UNTIL I SAY IT'S DONE!

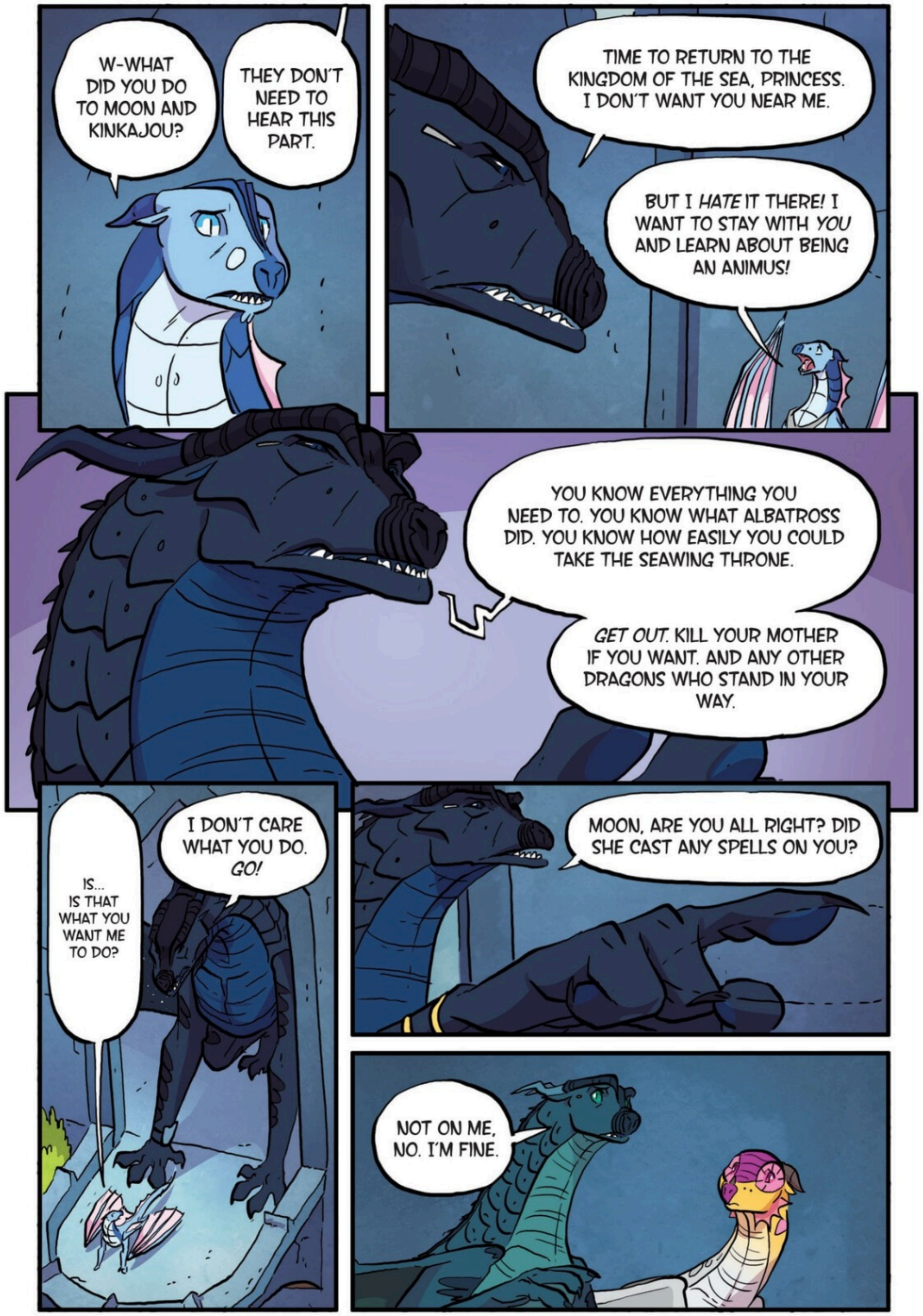

WHAT?!
ANEMONE!
OW! STOP!
WHAP!
ANEMONE, STOP THIS!
OW!
WAP!
WHAP!
WHACK!
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*? I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU HURT ME!
ME NEITHER!
TURN INTO OPALS AND SAPPHIRES.
GO DISTRACT DARKSTALKER.

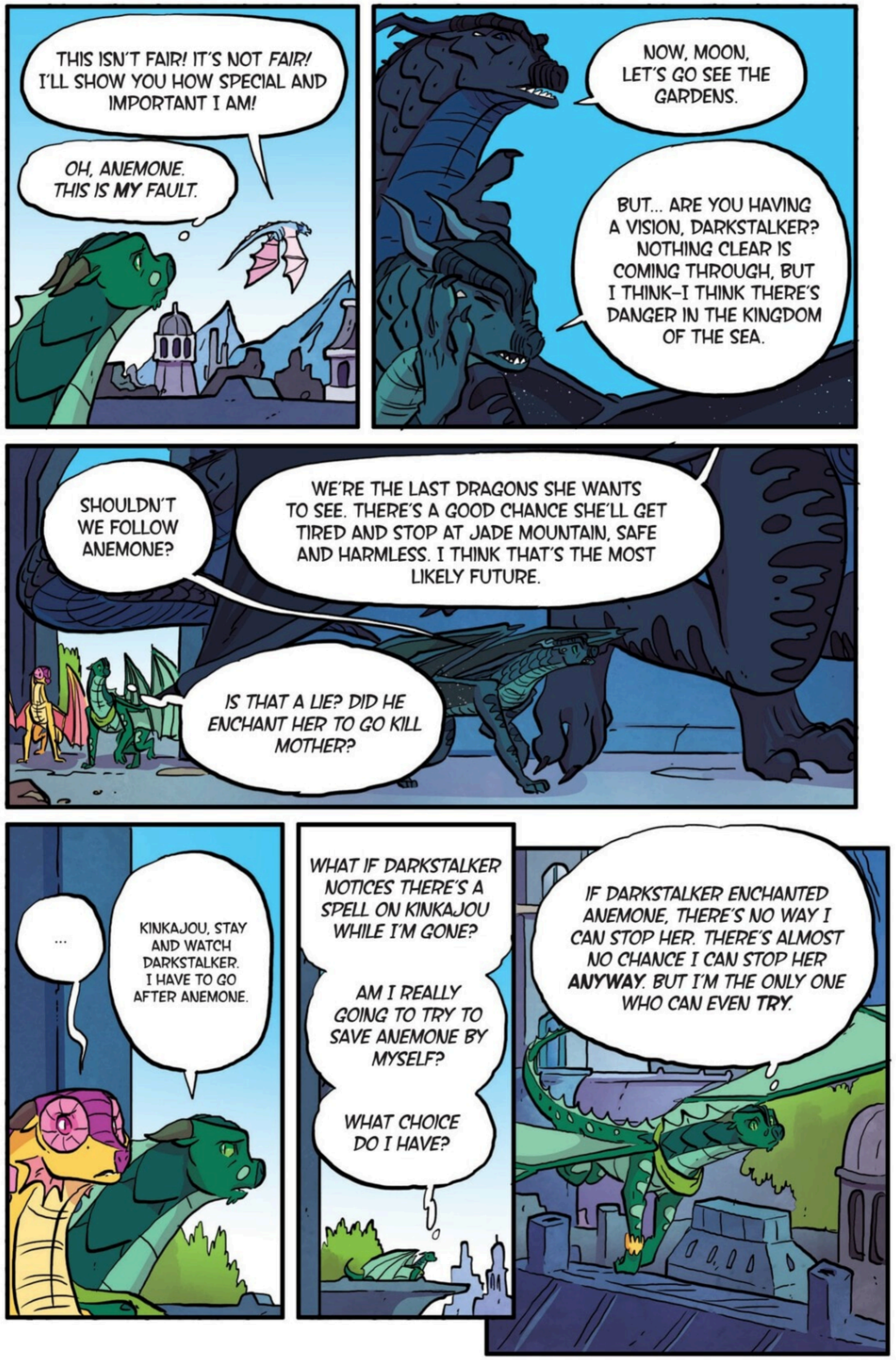

THERE, NOW HE WON'T COME RESCUE YOU. AND HE *DID* SAY I SHOULD USE MY MAGIC TO CLEAN UP.
JUST STOP FIGHTING AND DO IT!
ANEMONE, YOU'RE BEING HORRIBLE!
TURTLE! IS THIS ANEMONE LOSING HER SOUL?
MY SOUL'S *PROTECTED!* I'VE SEEN EVIL. THIS IS JUST DEALING WITH A PESKY PROBLEM.
*WHAT IF ANEMONE **IS** LOSING HER SOUL?*
*WHAT CAN I **DO**? CAST A SPELL? NO, I'LL GET CAUGHT. MAYBE A **HEARTFELT SPEECH!** EVEN HAPLESS SIDEKICKS CAN GIVE SPEECHES!*
The Prince's Speech
ANEMONE, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING–
QUIT JELLYFISHING, TURTLE. I'LL LET THEM UP IN A MINUTE. I JUST DON'T GET WHAT DARKSTALKER *SEES* IN MOON. SHE'S NOBODY SPECIAL.
I NEED TO MAKE HIM *REALIZE* THAT.

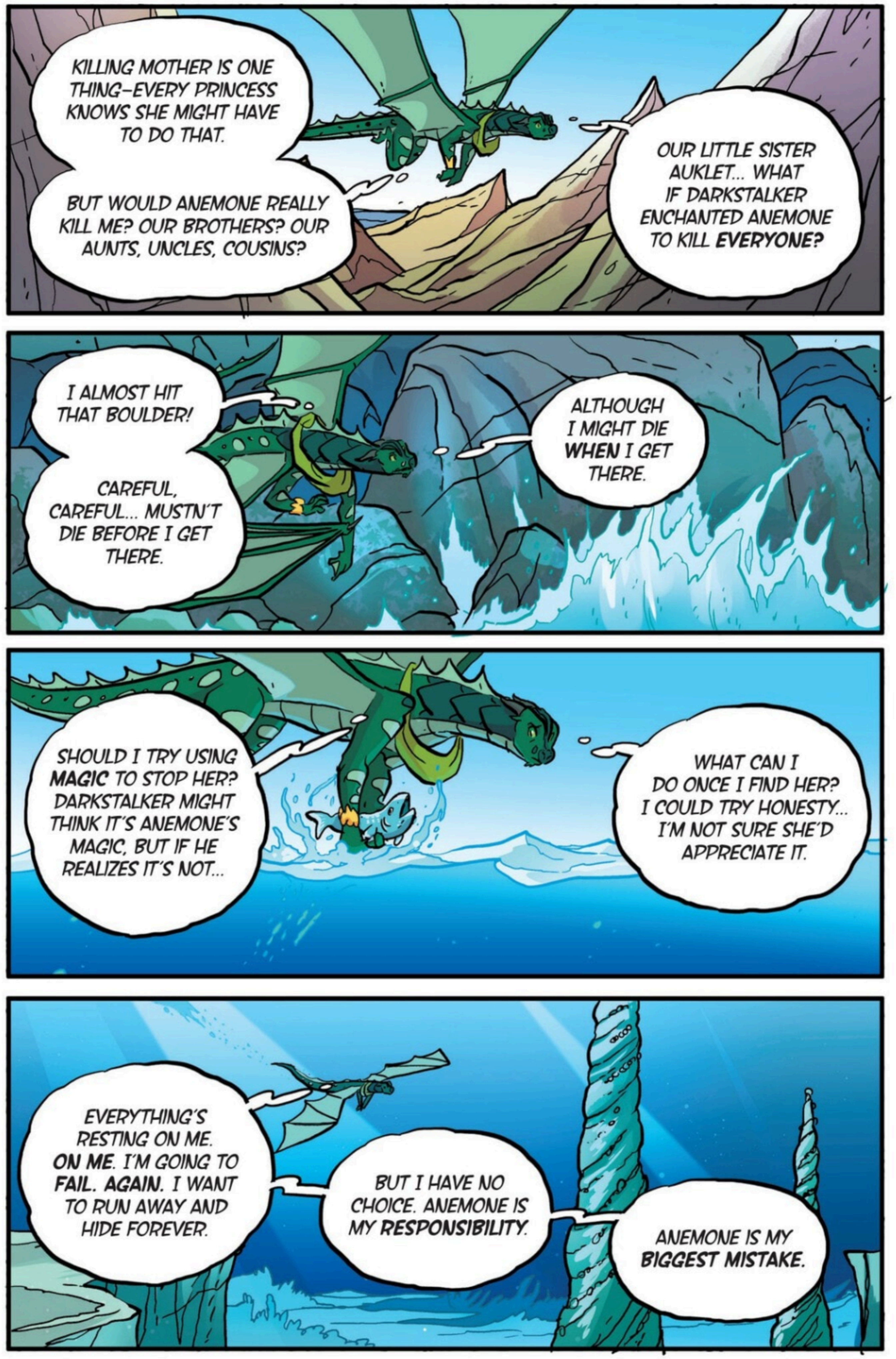

WHAT IN THE MOONS IS *THIS?*
WHATEVER.
TURN INTO AN EARRING. SOMETHING REALLY SPARKLY AND COOL THAT DARKSTALKER WOULD LIKE.
PERFECT. EARRING, WHEN DARKSTALKER PUTS YOU ON, MAKE HIM STOP CARING ABOUT MOON AT ALL. THE ONLY DRAGON HE'LL FIND INTERESTING IS *ME.*
DO SPELLS EVEN ***WORK*** *ON DARKSTALKER? SHOULD I ENCHANT IT, TOO? WITH* ***WHAT?*** *ANOTHER SLEEPING SPELL? A SPELL TO* ***KILL HIM?***
DOES DARKSTALKER DESERVE TO DIE? COULD I KILL HIM EVEN IF HE ***DOES?***
WOULD IT TIP ME INTO DARKNESS? IS ***THAT*** *WHY I ATTACK ANEMONE?*


ANEMONE.
EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
OH, THE BROOM WENT A BIT HAYWIRE. SO WEIRD! BUT LOOK, I FOUND THIS REALLY COOL EARRING FOR YOU!
LIAR!
I DON'T ACCEPT GIFTS FROM OTHER ANIMUS DRAGONS. *ESPECIALLY* CONNIVING *SEAWINGS.*
IT'S JUST A PRETTY EARRING! SQUID GUTS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO PARANOID...
SPARE ME YOUR LIES. I HEARD EVERYTHING.
YOU TRIED TO CAST A SPELL ON ME. MANIPULATE MY EMOTIONS. IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED ANYWAY. I'VE PROTECTED MYSELF AGAINST YOUR MAGIC.
I J-JUST WANTED YOU TO PAY ATTENTION TO ME.

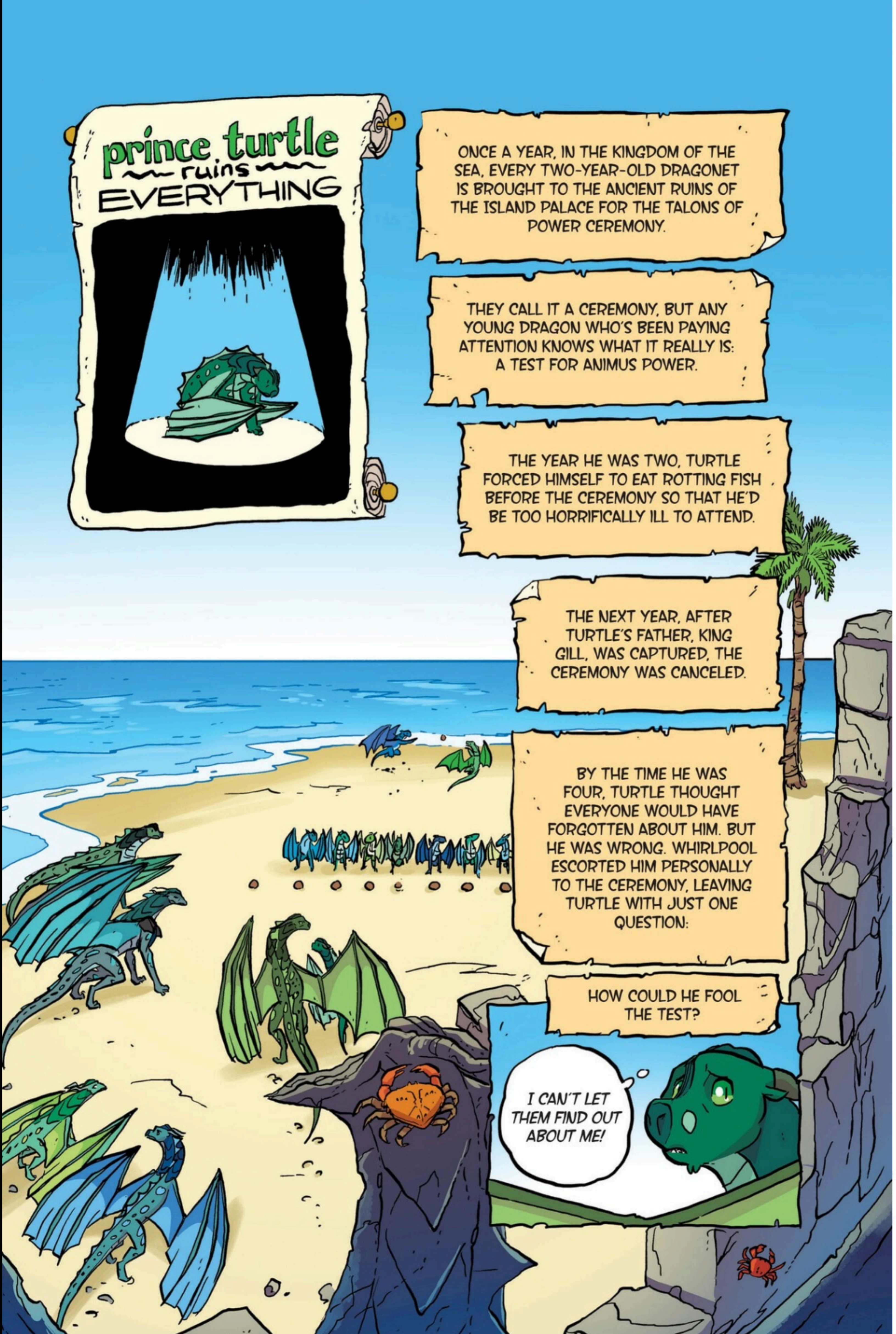

DON'T BE ANGRY AT HER, DARKSTALKER. SHE'S YOUNG. IT WAS A MISTAKE.
I *WILL NOT* HAVE DRAGONS *STOLEN* FROM ME. NEVER AGAIN.
???
*OH **NO**! THAT SPELL IS SUPPOSED TO FREEZE KINKAJOU, TOO!*
KINKAJOU! IT'S A SPELL! PRETEND TO BE FROZEN OR HE'LL KNOW HIS SPELLS DON'T WORK ON YOU!
!

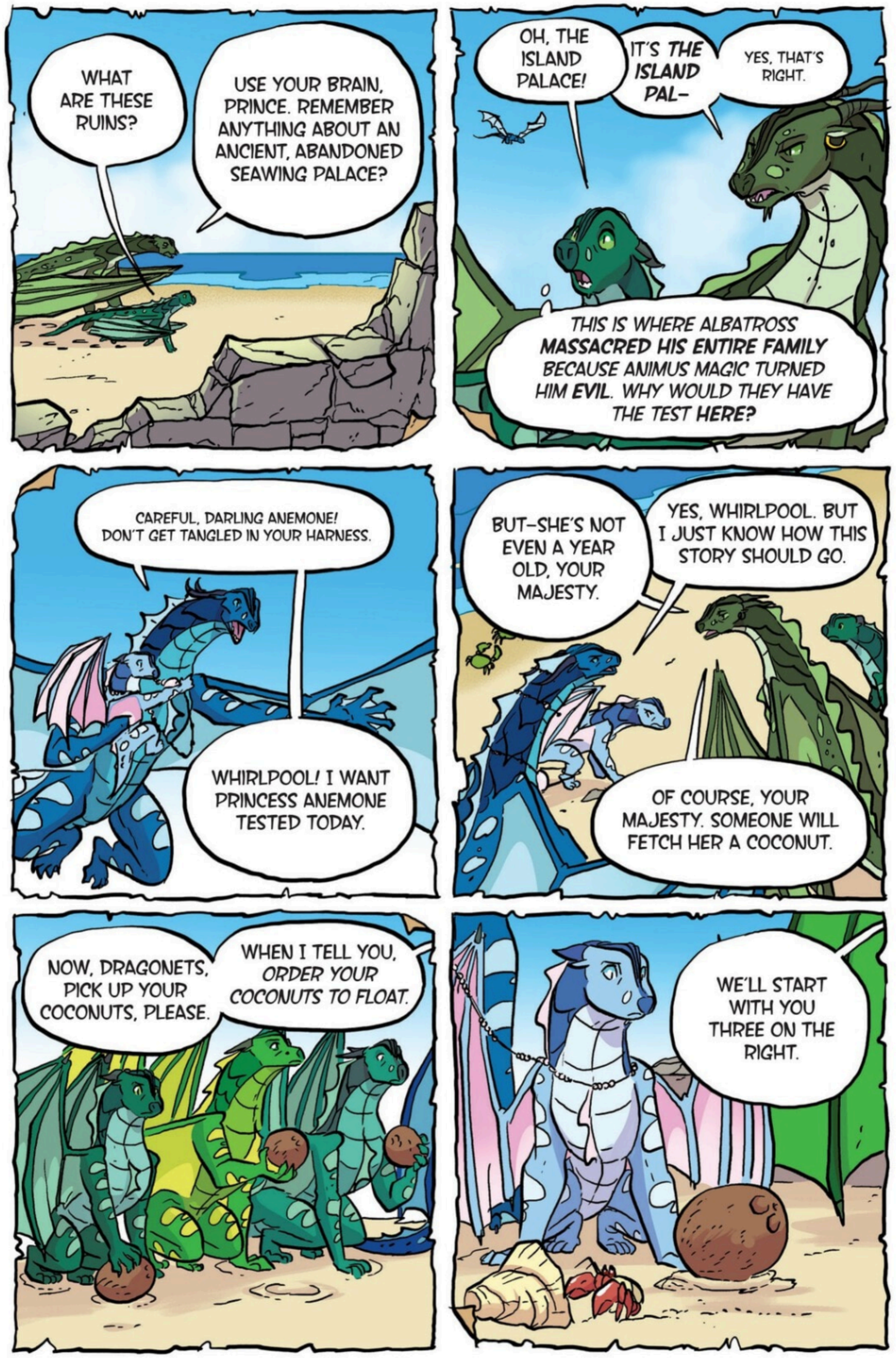

W-WHAT DID YOU DO TO MOON AND KINKAJOU?
THEY DON'T NEED TO HEAR THIS PART.
TIME TO RETURN TO THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA, PRINCESS. I DON'T WANT YOU NEAR ME.
BUT I *HATE* IT THERE! I WANT TO STAY WITH *YOU* AND LEARN ABOUT BEING AN ANIMUS!
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO. YOU KNOW WHAT ALBATROSS DID. YOU KNOW HOW EASILY YOU COULD TAKE THE SEAWING THRONE.
GET OUT. KILL YOUR MOTHER IF YOU WANT. AND ANY OTHER DRAGONS WHO STAND IN YOUR WAY.
IS... IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO?
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO. *GO!*
MOON, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID SHE CAST ANY SPELLS ON YOU?
NOT ON ME, NO. I'M FINE.

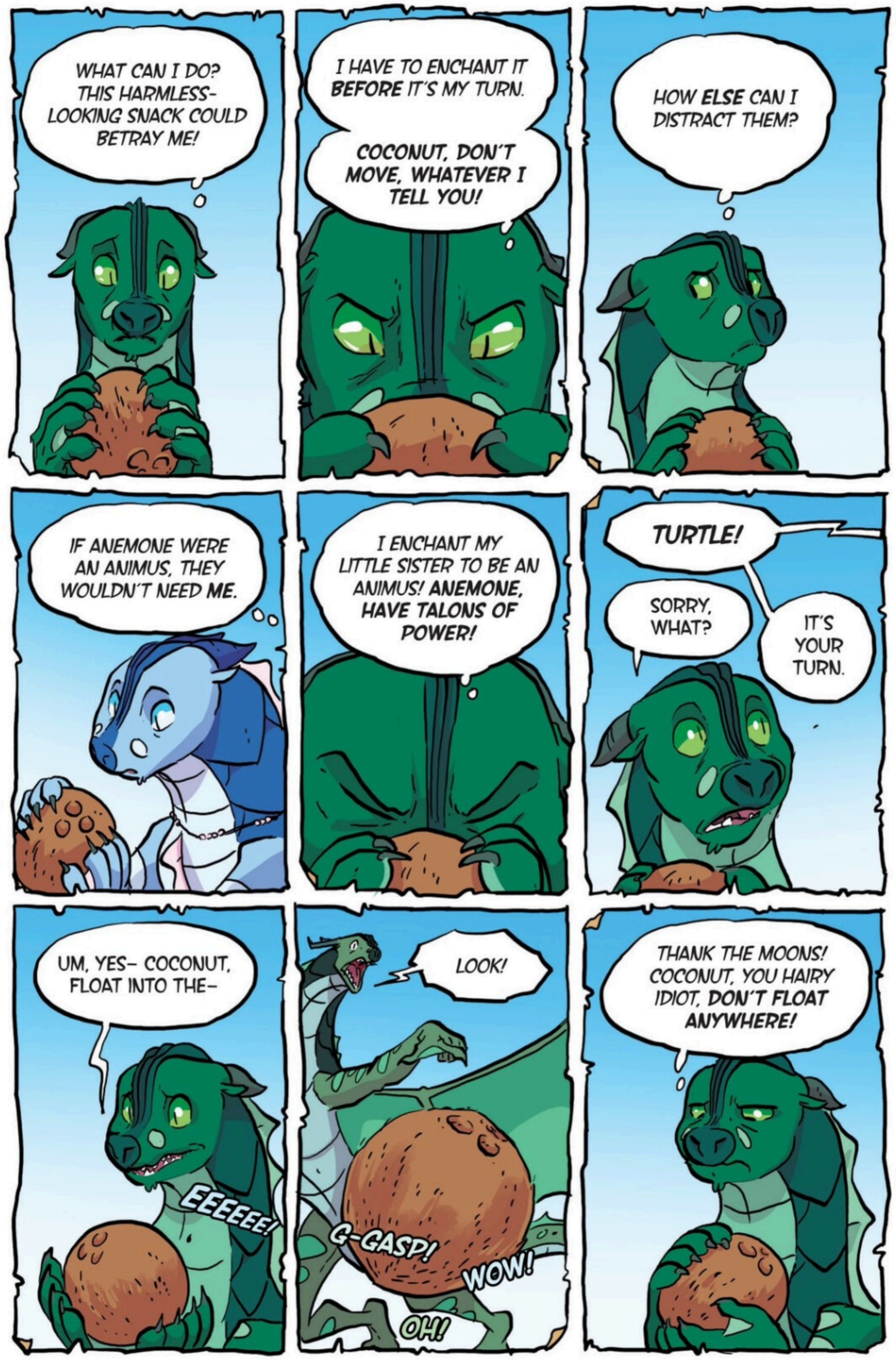

THIS ISN'T FAIR! IT'S NOT *FAIR!* I'LL SHOW YOU HOW SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT I AM!
*OH, ANEMONE. THIS IS **MY** FAULT.*
NOW, MOON, LET'S GO SEE THE GARDENS.
BUT... ARE YOU HAVING A VISION, DARKSTALKER? NOTHING CLEAR IS COMING THROUGH, BUT I THINK–I THINK THERE'S DANGER IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA.
SHOULDN'T WE FOLLOW ANEMONE?
WE'RE THE LAST DRAGONS SHE WANTS TO SEE. THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SHE'LL GET TIRED AND STOP AT JADE MOUNTAIN, SAFE AND HARMLESS. I THINK THAT'S THE MOST LIKELY FUTURE.
IS THAT A LIE? DID HE ENCHANT HER TO GO KILL MOTHER?
...
KINKAJOU, STAY AND WATCH DARKSTALKER. I HAVE TO GO AFTER ANEMONE.
WHAT IF DARKSTALKER NOTICES THERE'S A SPELL ON KINKAJOU WHILE I'M GONE?
AM I REALLY GOING TO TRY TO SAVE ANEMONE BY MYSELF?
WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?
*IF DARKSTALKER ENCHANTED ANEMONE, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STOP HER. THERE'S ALMOST NO CHANCE I CAN STOP HER **ANYWAY**. BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EVEN **TRY**.*

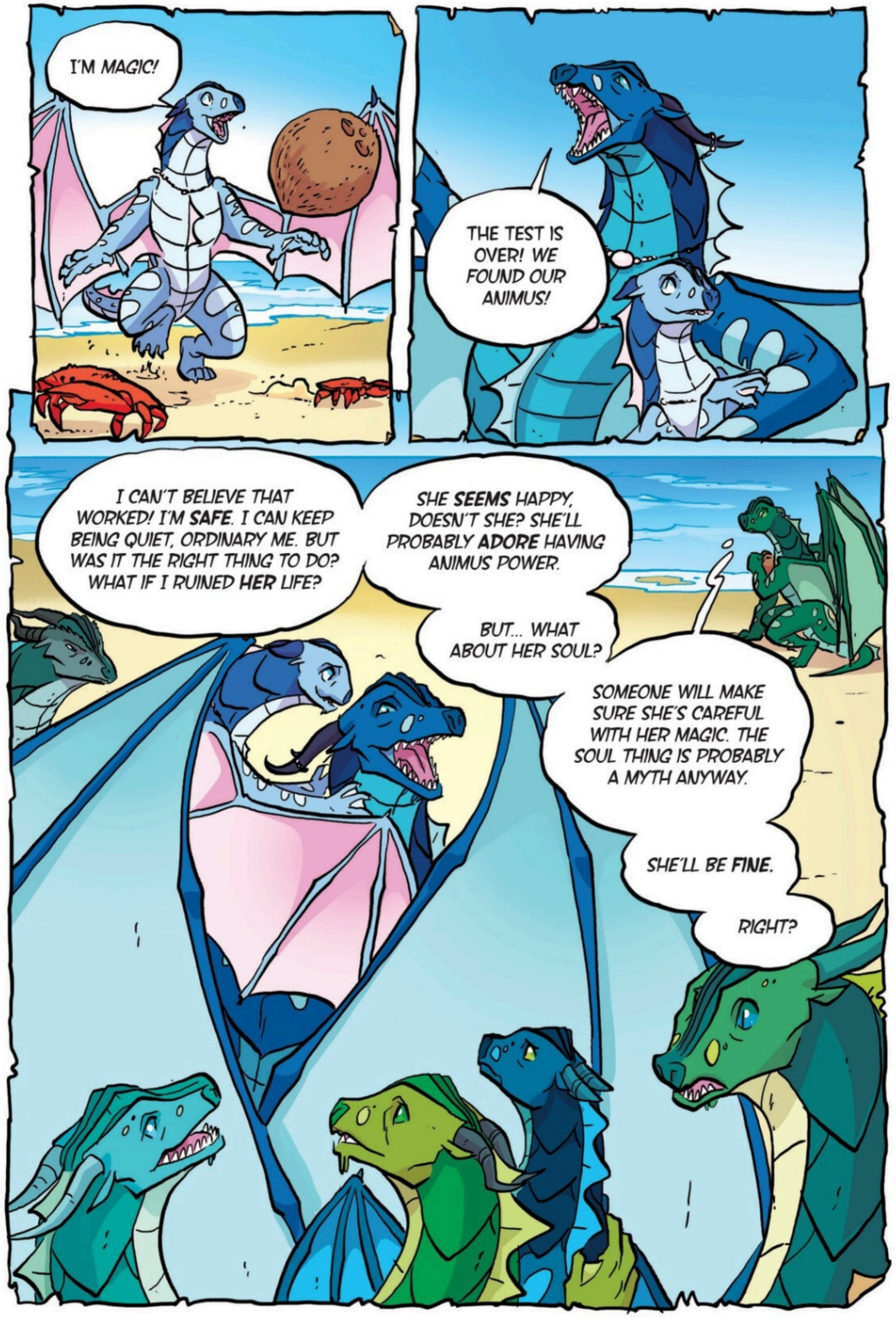

KILLING MOTHER IS ONE THING–EVERY PRINCESS KNOWS SHE MIGHT HAVE TO DO THAT.
BUT WOULD ANEMONE REALLY KILL ME? OUR BROTHERS? OUR AUNTS, UNCLES, COUSINS?
*OUR LITTLE SISTER AUKLET... WHAT IF DARKSTALKER ENCHANTED ANEMONE TO KILL **EVERYONE?***
I ALMOST HIT THAT BOULDER!
CAREFUL, CAREFUL... MUSTN'T DIE BEFORE I GET THERE.
*ALTHOUGH I MIGHT DIE **WHEN** I GET THERE.*
*SHOULD I TRY USING **MAGIC** TO STOP HER? DARKSTALKER MIGHT THINK IT'S ANEMONE'S MAGIC, BUT IF HE REALIZES IT'S NOT...*
WHAT CAN I DO ONCE I FIND HER? I COULD TRY HONESTY... I'M NOT SURE SHE'D APPRECIATE IT.
*EVERYTHING'S RESTING ON ME. **ON ME**. I'M GOING TO **FAIL. AGAIN.** I WANT TO RUN AWAY AND HIDE FOREVER.*
*BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE. ANEMONE IS MY **RESPONSIBILITY**.*
*ANEMONE IS MY **BIGGEST MISTAKE.***

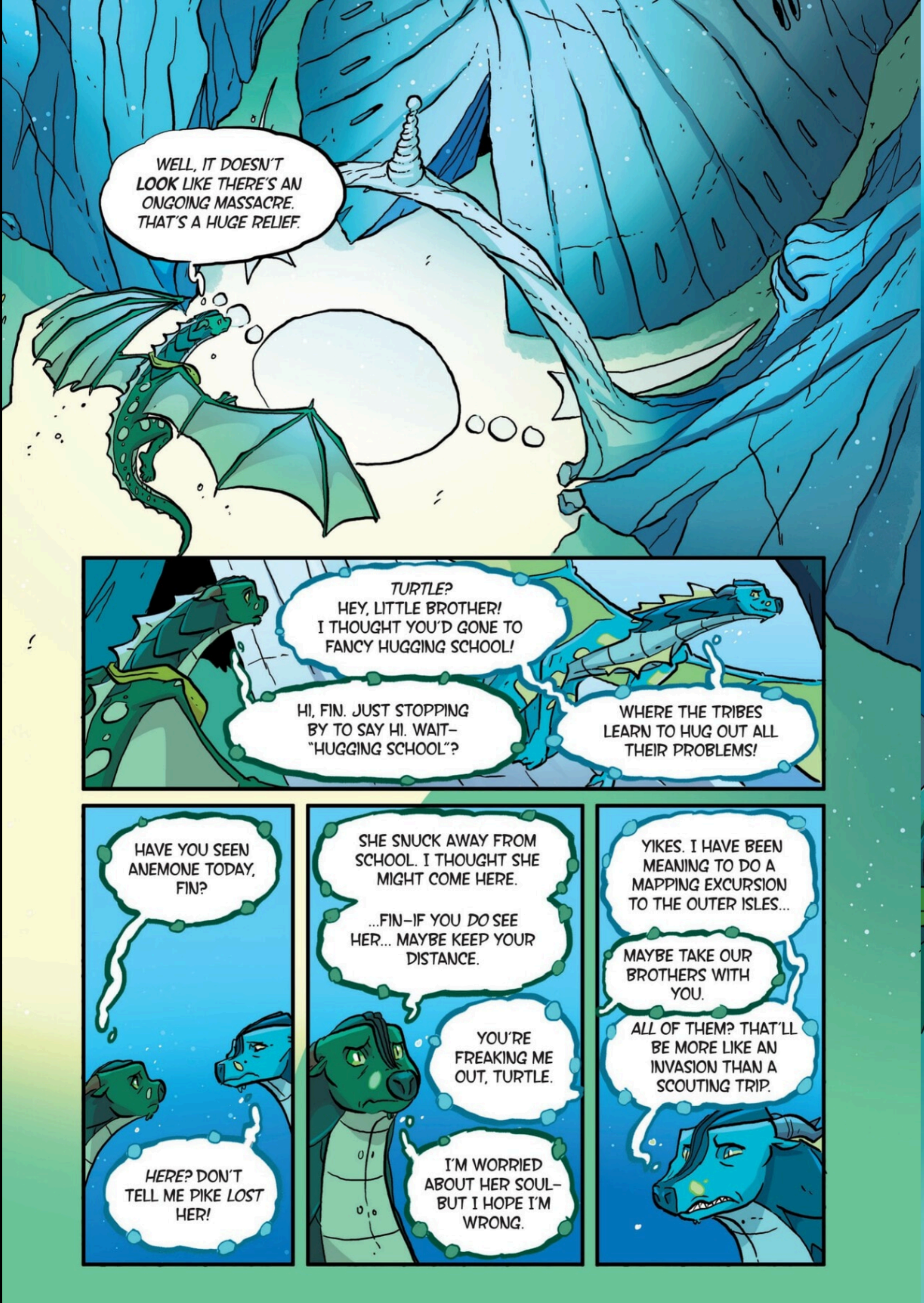
prince turtle ruins EVERYTHING

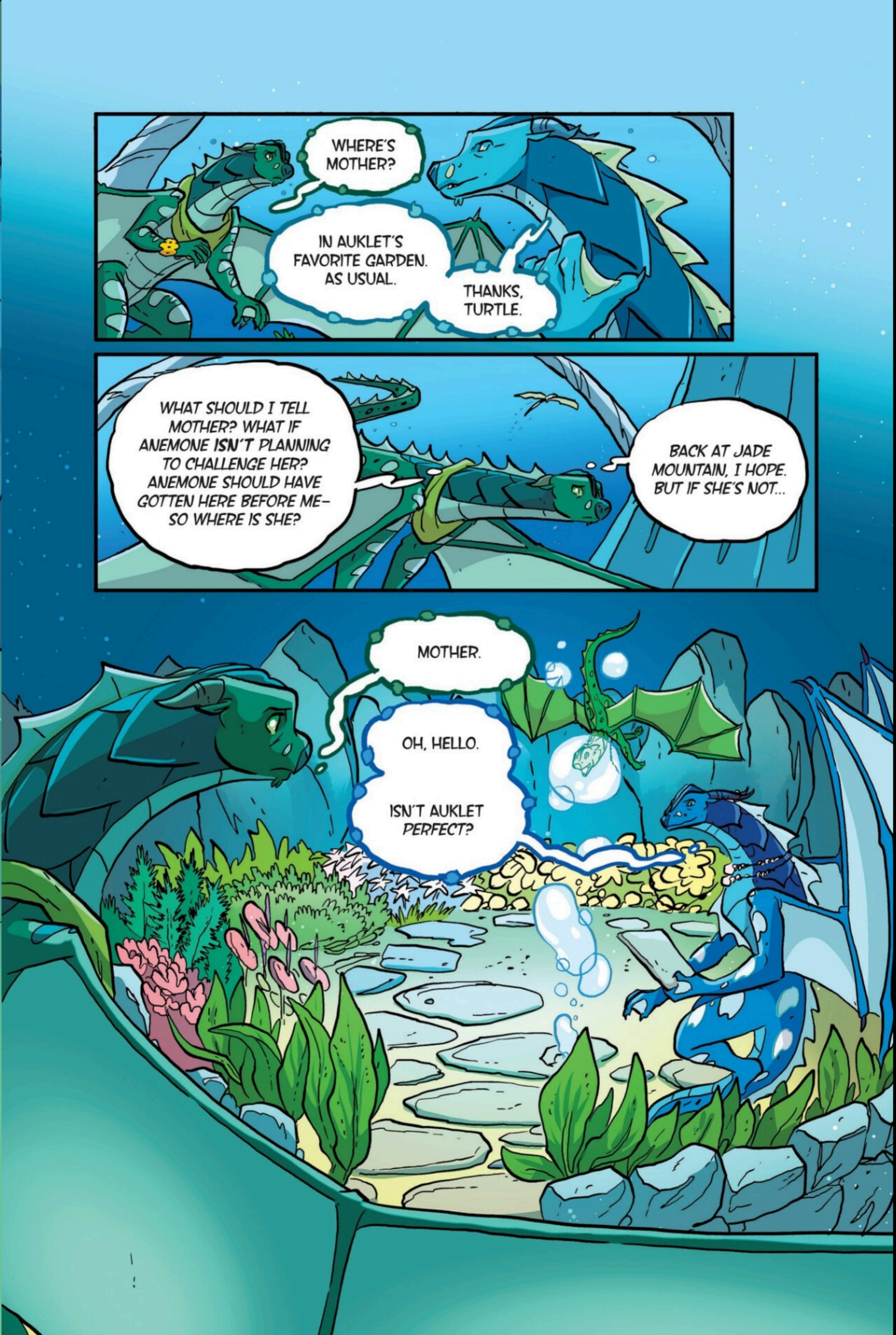

ONCE A YEAR, IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA, EVERY TWO-YEAR-OLD DRAGONET IS BROUGHT TO THE ANCIENT RUINS OF THE ISLAND PALACE FOR THE TALONS OF POWER CEREMONY.
THEY CALL IT A CEREMONY, BUT ANY YOUNG DRAGON WHO'S BEEN PAYING ATTENTION KNOWS WHAT IT REALLY IS: A TEST FOR ANIMUS POWER.
THE YEAR HE WAS TWO, TURTLE FORCED HIMSELF TO EAT ROTTING FISH BEFORE THE CEREMONY SO THAT HE'D BE TOO HORRIFICALLY ILL TO ATTEND.
THE NEXT YEAR, AFTER TURTLE'S FATHER, KING GILL, WAS CAPTURED, THE CEREMONY WAS CANCELED.
BY THE TIME HE WAS FOUR, TURTLE THOUGHT EVERYONE WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM. BUT HE WAS WRONG. WHIRLPOOL ESCORTED HIM PERSONALLY TO THE CEREMONY, LEAVING TURTLE WITH JUST ONE QUESTION:
HOW COULD HE FOOL THE TEST?
I CAN'T LET THEM FIND OUT ABOUT ME!

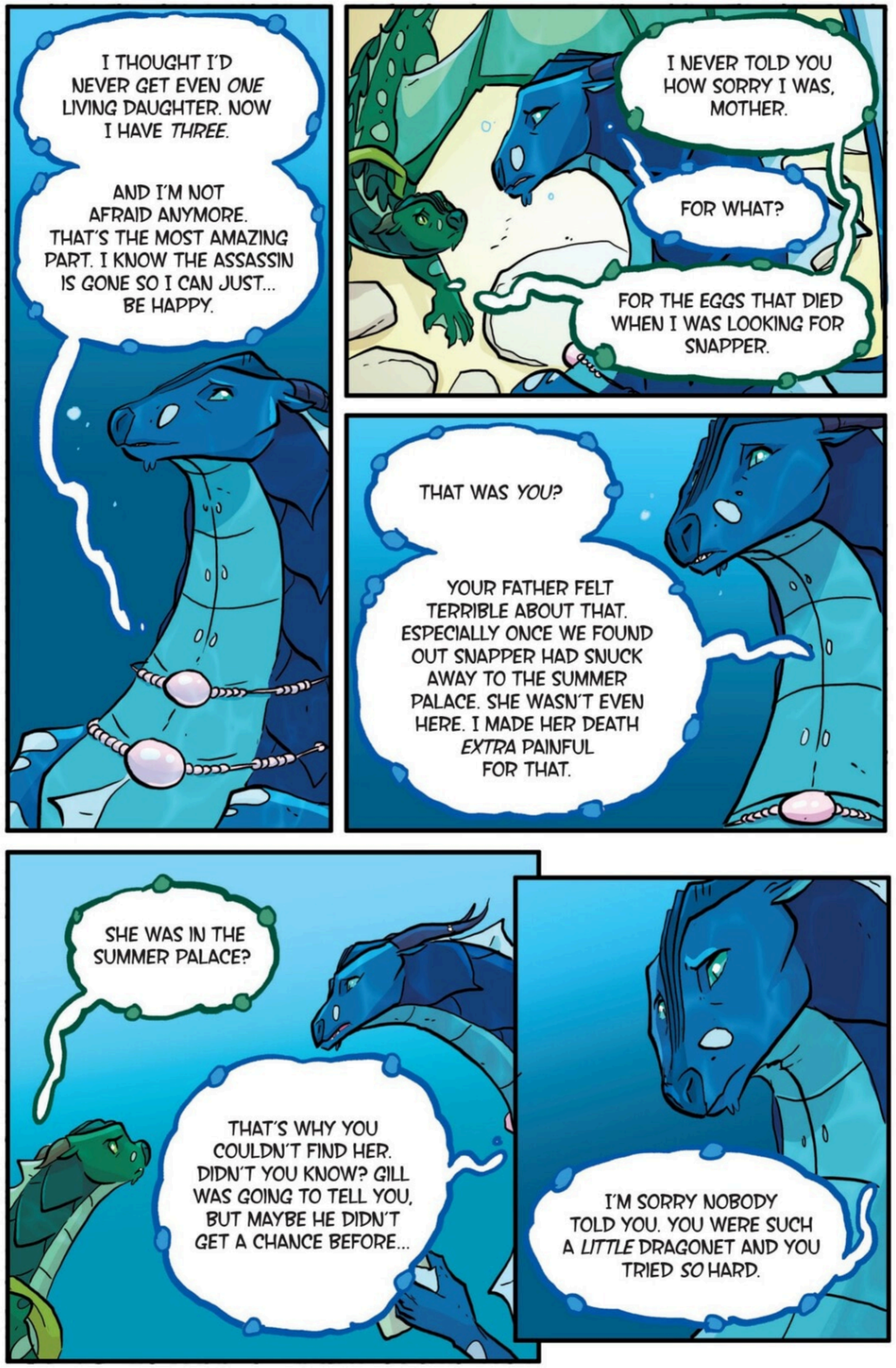

WHAT ARE THESE RUINS?
USE YOUR BRAIN, PRINCE. REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT AN ANCIENT, ABANDONED SEAWING PALACE?
OH, THE ISLAND PALACE!
IT'S THE ISLAND PAL–
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS WHERE ALBATROSS MASSACRED HIS ENTIRE FAMILY BECAUSE ANIMUS MAGIC TURNED HIM EVIL. WHY WOULD THEY HAVE THE TEST HERE?
CAREFUL, DARLING ANEMONE! DON'T GET TANGLED IN YOUR HARNESS.
WHIRLPOOL! I WANT PRINCESS ANEMONE TESTED TODAY.
BUT–SHE'S NOT EVEN A YEAR OLD, YOUR MAJESTY.
YES, WHIRLPOOL. BUT I JUST KNOW HOW THIS STORY SHOULD GO.
OF COURSE, YOUR MAJESTY. SOMEONE WILL FETCH HER A COCONUT.
NOW, DRAGONETS, PICK UP YOUR COCONUTS, PLEASE.
WHEN I TELL YOU, ORDER YOUR COCONUTS TO FLOAT.
WE'LL START WITH YOU THREE ON THE RIGHT.

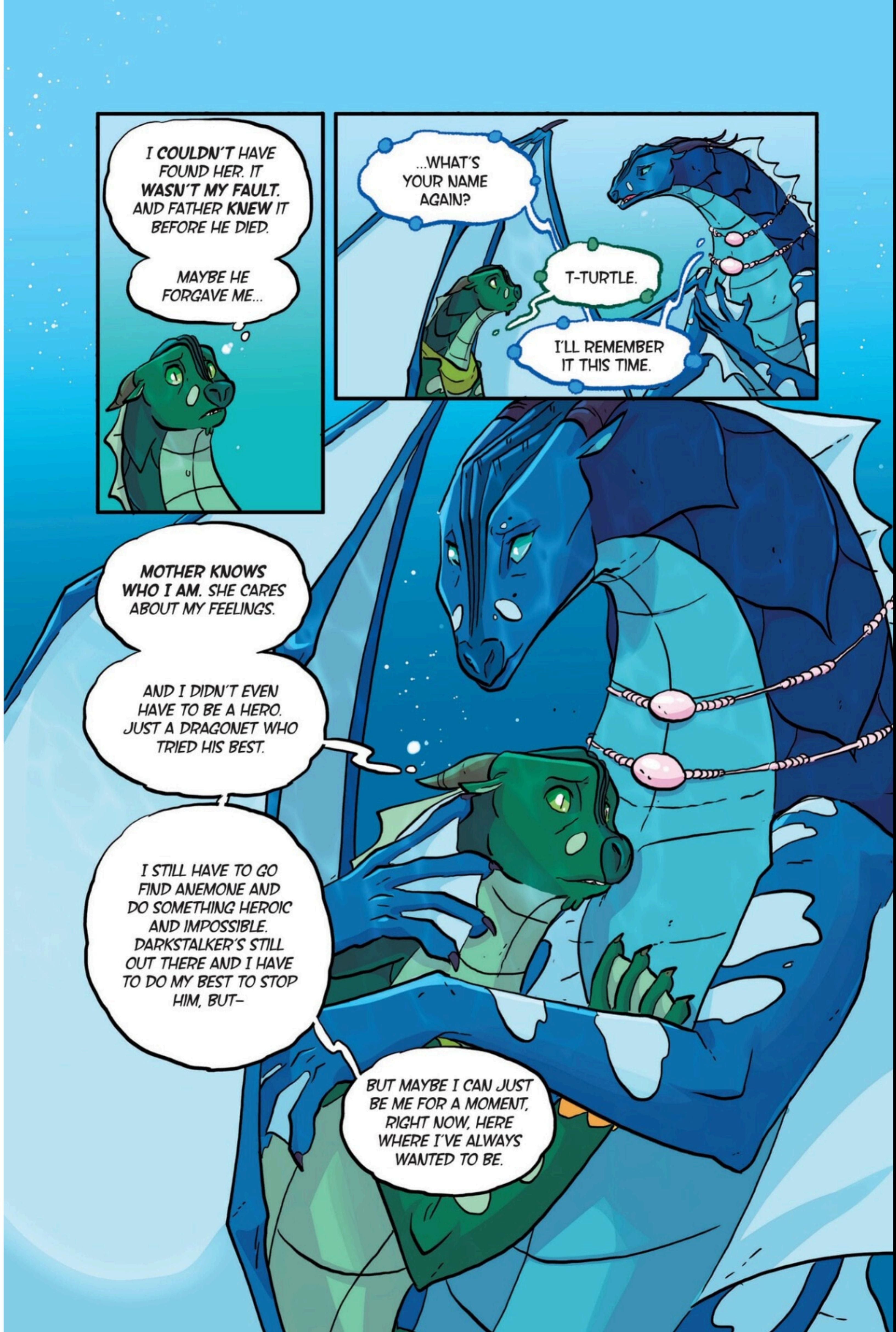

WHAT CAN I DO? THIS HARMLESS-LOOKING SNACK COULD BETRAY ME!
I HAVE TO ENCHANT IT **BEFORE** IT'S MY TURN.
COCONUT, DON'T MOVE, WHATEVER I TELL YOU!
HOW **ELSE** CAN I DISTRACT THEM?
IF ANEMONE WERE AN ANIMUS, THEY WOULDN'T NEED **ME.**
I ENCHANT MY LITTLE SISTER TO BE AN ANIMUS! **ANEMONE, HAVE TALONS OF POWER!**
TURTLE!
SORRY, WHAT?
IT'S YOUR TURN.
UM, YES– COCONUT, FLOAT INTO THE–
EEEEEE!
LOOK!
G-GASP!
WOW!
OH!
THANK THE MOONS! COCONUT, YOU HAIRY IDIOT, **DON'T FLOAT ANYWHERE!**

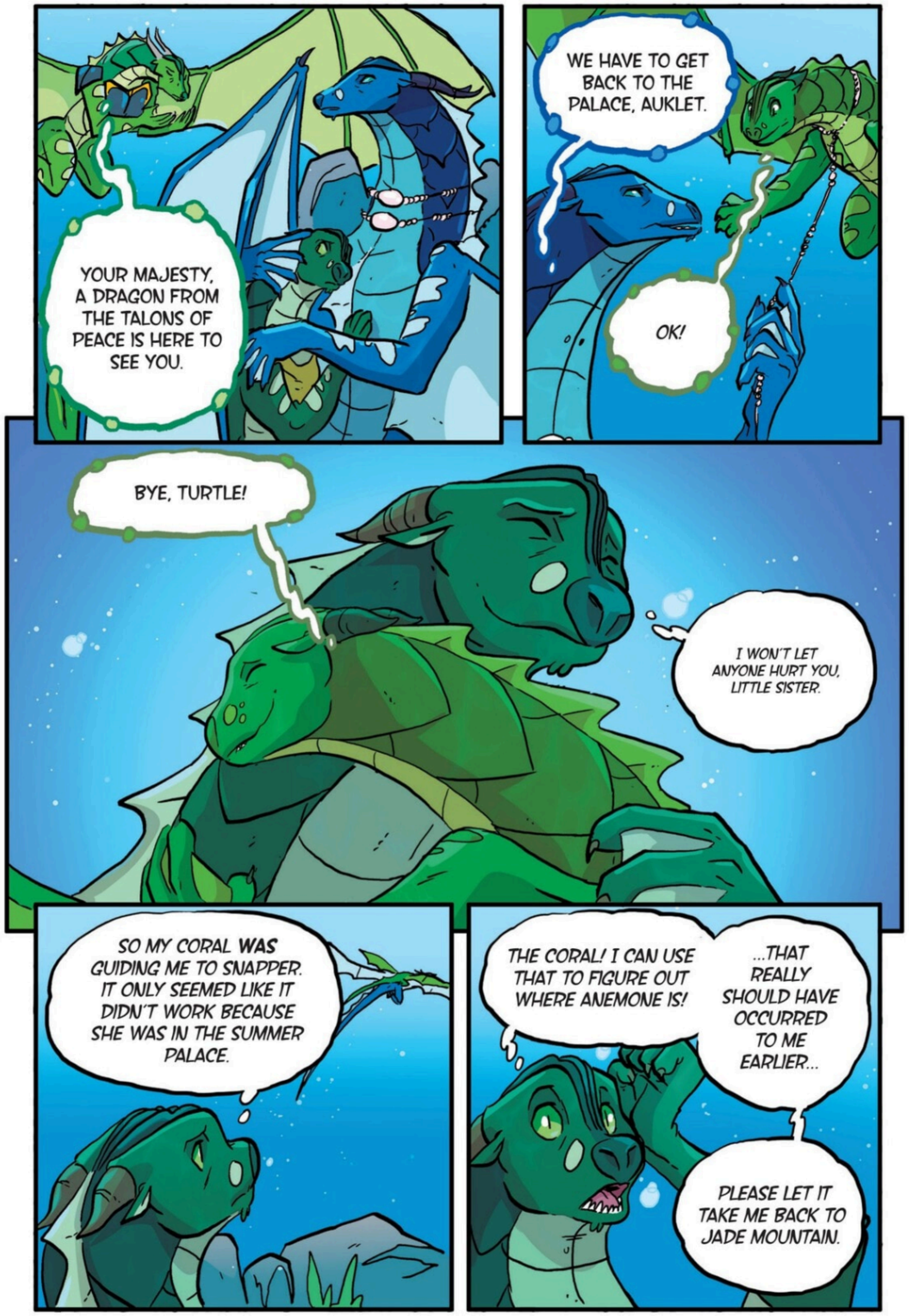

I'M MAGIC!
THE TEST IS OVER! WE FOUND OUR ANIMUS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED! I'M **SAFE**. I CAN KEEP BEING QUIET, ORDINARY ME. BUT WAS IT THE RIGHT THING TO DO? WHAT IF I RUINED **HER** LIFE?
SHE **SEEMS** HAPPY, DOESN'T SHE? SHE'LL PROBABLY **ADORE** HAVING ANIMUS POWER.
BUT... WHAT ABOUT HER SOUL?
SOMEONE WILL MAKE SURE SHE'S CAREFUL WITH HER MAGIC. THE SOUL THING IS PROBABLY A MYTH ANYWAY.
SHE'LL BE **FINE.**
RIGHT?

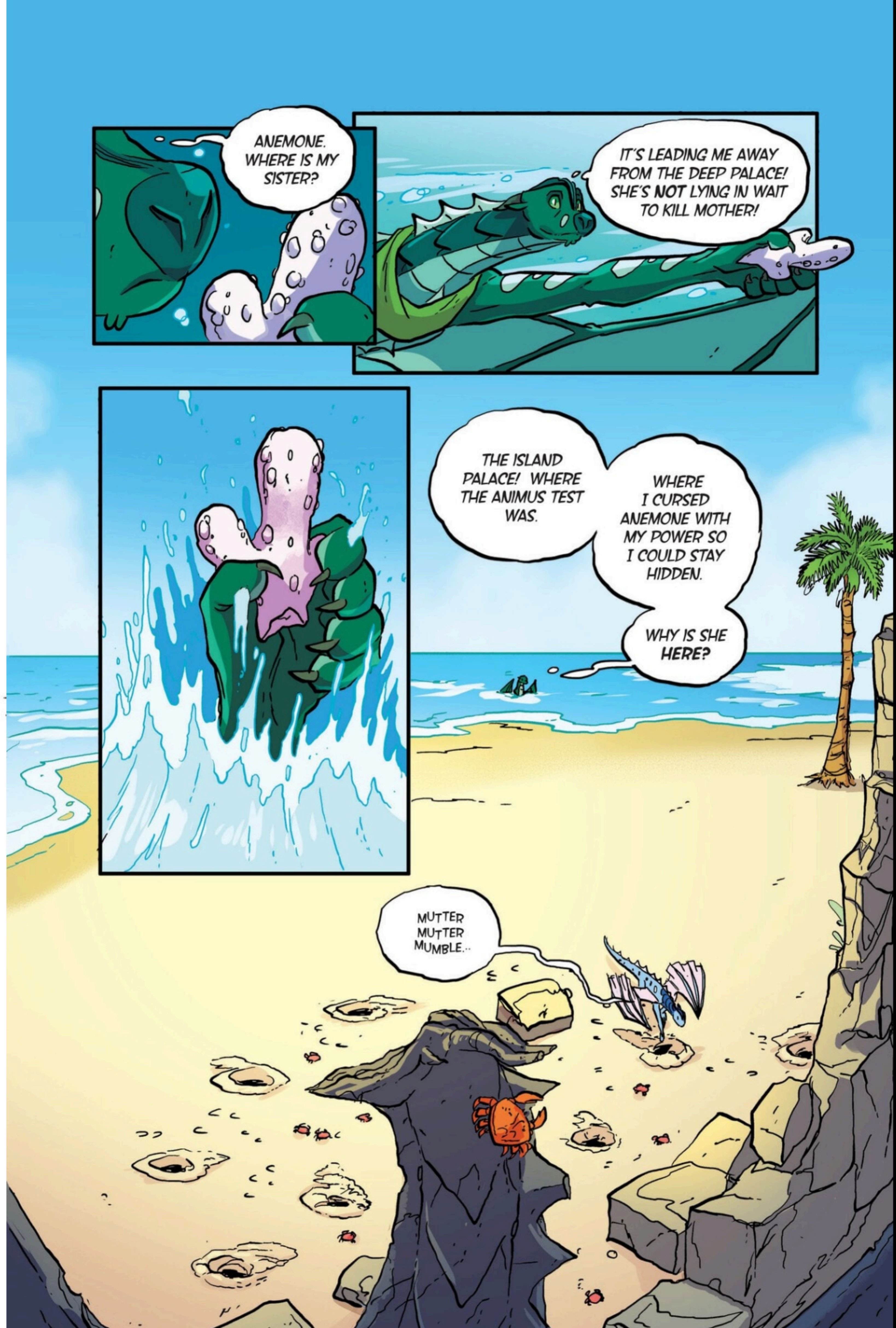

WELL, IT DOESN'T **LOOK** LIKE THERE'S AN ONGOING MASSACRE. THAT'S A HUGE RELIEF.
TURTLE? HEY, LITTLE BROTHER! I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE TO FANCY HUGGING SCHOOL!
HI, FIN. JUST STOPPING BY TO SAY HI. WAIT— "HUGGING SCHOOL"?
WHERE THE TRIBES LEARN TO HUG OUT ALL THEIR PROBLEMS!
HAVE YOU SEEN ANEMONE TODAY, FIN?
HERE? DON'T TELL ME PIKE *LOST* HER!
SHE SNUCK AWAY FROM SCHOOL. I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT COME HERE.
...FIN—IF YOU *DO* SEE HER... MAYBE KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.
YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT, TURTLE.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER SOUL— BUT I HOPE I'M WRONG.
YIKES. I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO DO A MAPPING EXCURSION TO THE OUTER ISLES...
MAYBE TAKE OUR BROTHERS WITH YOU.
ALL OF THEM? THAT'LL BE MORE LIKE AN INVASION THAN A SCOUTING TRIP.

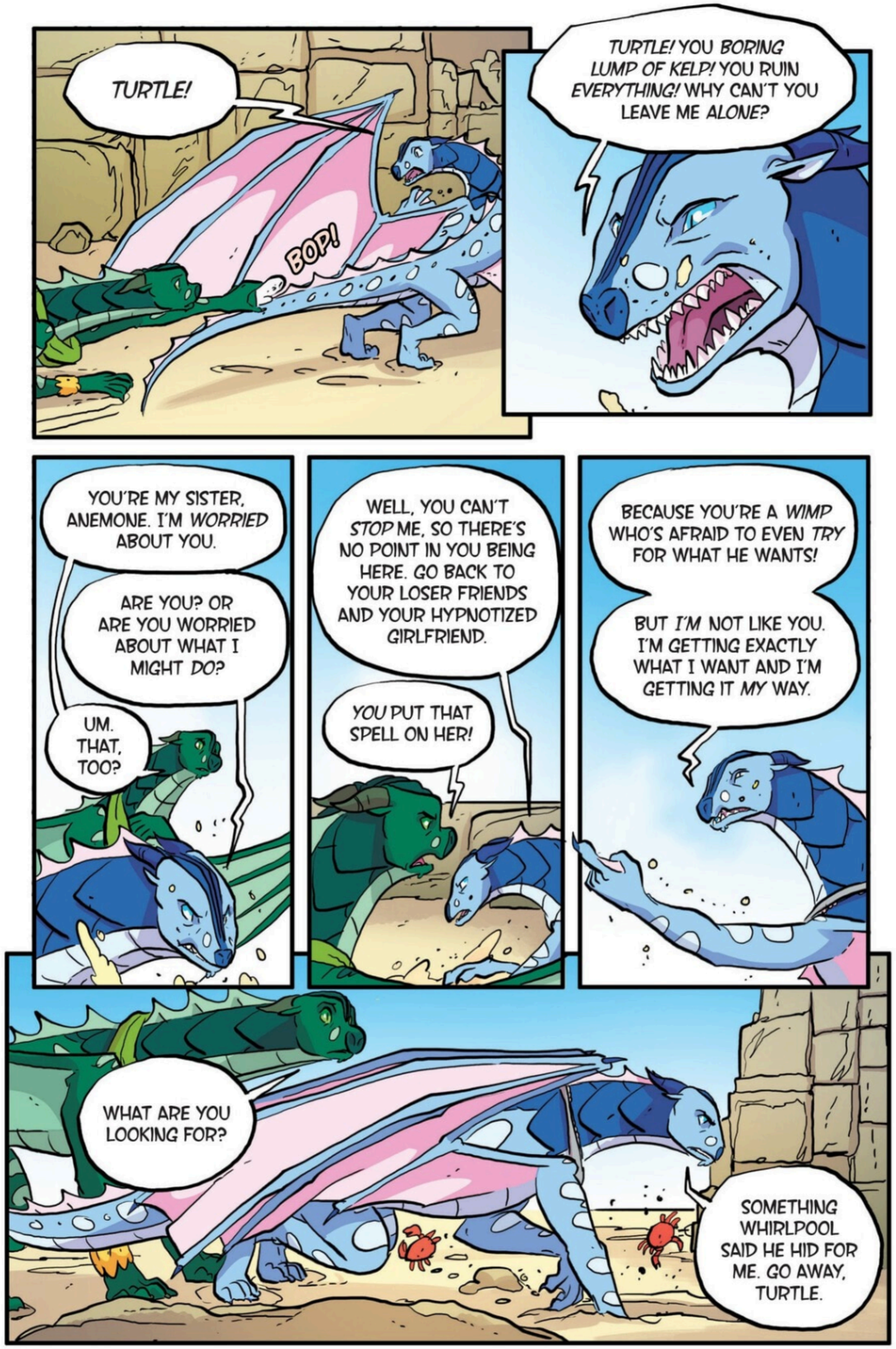

WHERE'S MOTHER?
IN AUKLET'S FAVORITE GARDEN. AS USUAL.
THANKS, TURTLE.
WHAT SHOULD I TELL MOTHER? WHAT IF ANEMONE **ISN'T** *PLANNING TO CHALLENGE HER? ANEMONE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN HERE BEFORE ME— SO WHERE IS SHE?*
BACK AT JADE MOUNTAIN, I HOPE. BUT IF SHE'S NOT...
MOTHER.
OH, HELLO.
ISN'T AUKLET *PERFECT?*

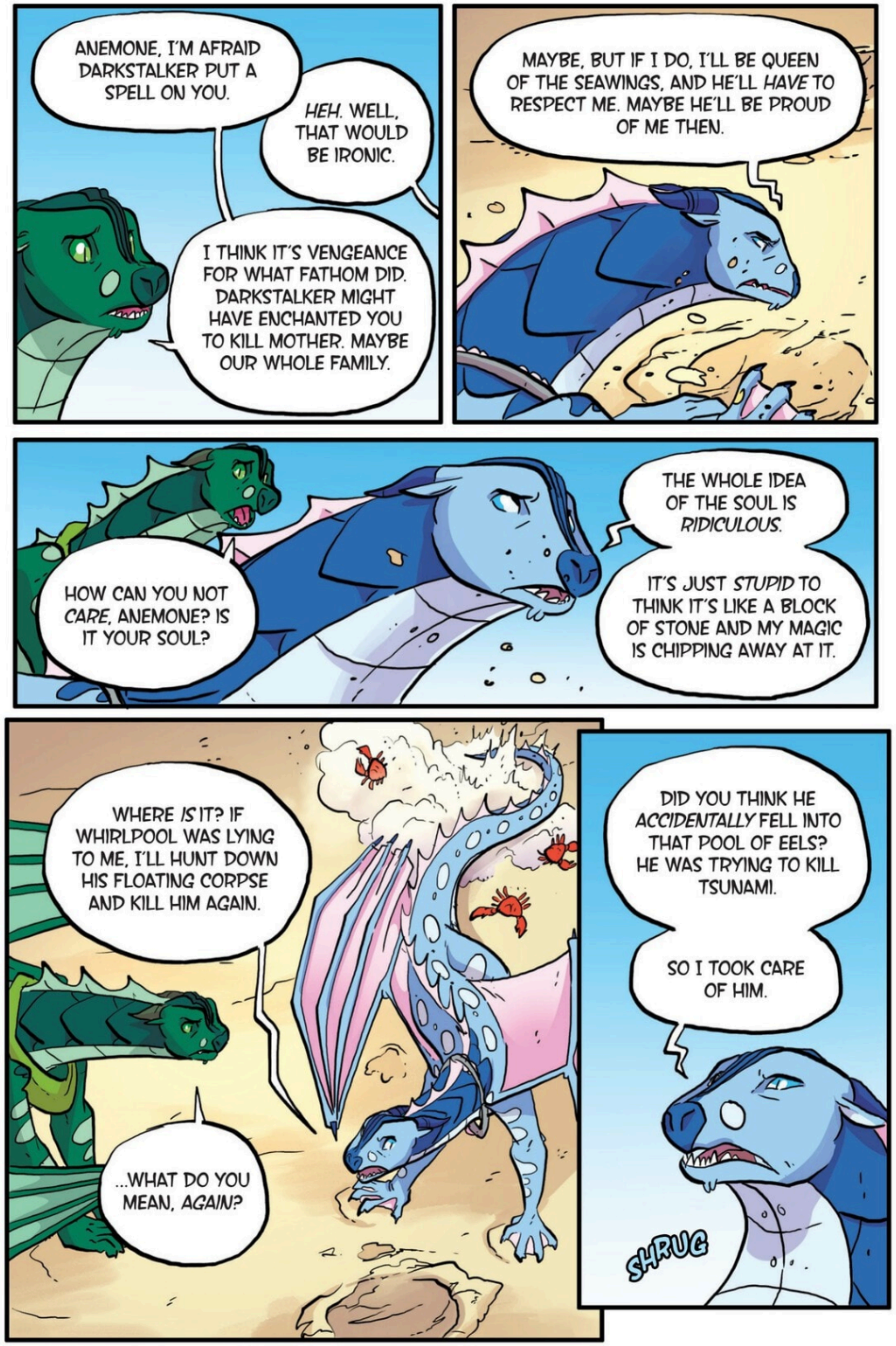

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET EVEN *ONE* LIVING DAUGHTER. NOW I HAVE *THREE.*
AND I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE. THAT'S THE MOST AMAZING PART. I KNOW THE ASSASSIN IS GONE SO I CAN JUST... BE HAPPY.
I NEVER TOLD YOU HOW SORRY I WAS, MOTHER.
FOR WHAT?
FOR THE EGGS THAT DIED WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR SNAPPER.
THAT WAS *YOU?*
YOUR FATHER FELT TERRIBLE ABOUT THAT. ESPECIALLY ONCE WE FOUND OUT SNAPPER HAD SNUCK AWAY TO THE SUMMER PALACE. SHE WASN'T EVEN HERE. I MADE HER DEATH *EXTRA* PAINFUL FOR THAT.
SHE WAS IN THE SUMMER PALACE?
THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T FIND HER. DIDN'T YOU KNOW? GILL WAS GOING TO TELL YOU, BUT MAYBE HE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE BEFORE...
I'M SORRY NOBODY TOLD YOU. YOU WERE SUCH A *LITTLE* DRAGONET AND YOU TRIED *SO* HARD.

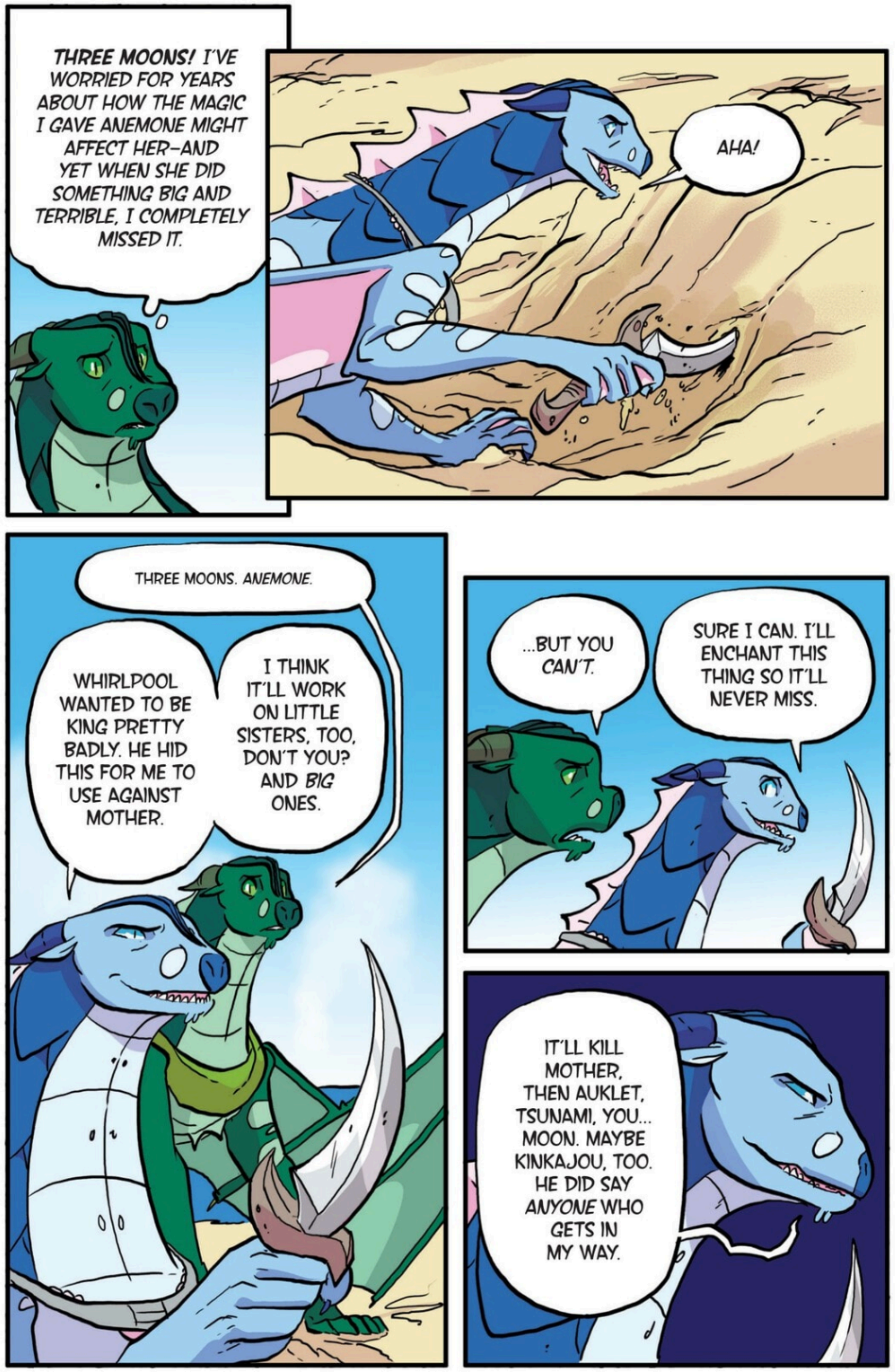

I ***COULDN'T*** *HAVE FOUND HER. IT* ***WASN'T MY FAULT.*** *AND FATHER* ***KNEW*** *IT BEFORE HE DIED.*
MAYBE HE FORGAVE ME...
...WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?
T-TURTLE.
I'LL REMEMBER IT THIS TIME.
MOTHER KNOWS WHO I AM. *SHE CARES ABOUT MY FEELINGS.*
AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE A HERO. JUST A DRAGONET WHO TRIED HIS BEST.
I STILL HAVE TO GO FIND ANEMONE AND DO SOMETHING HEROIC AND IMPOSSIBLE. DARKSTALKER'S STILL OUT THERE AND I HAVE TO DO MY BEST TO STOP HIM, BUT–
BUT MAYBE I CAN JUST BE ME FOR A MOMENT, RIGHT NOW, HERE WHERE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE.

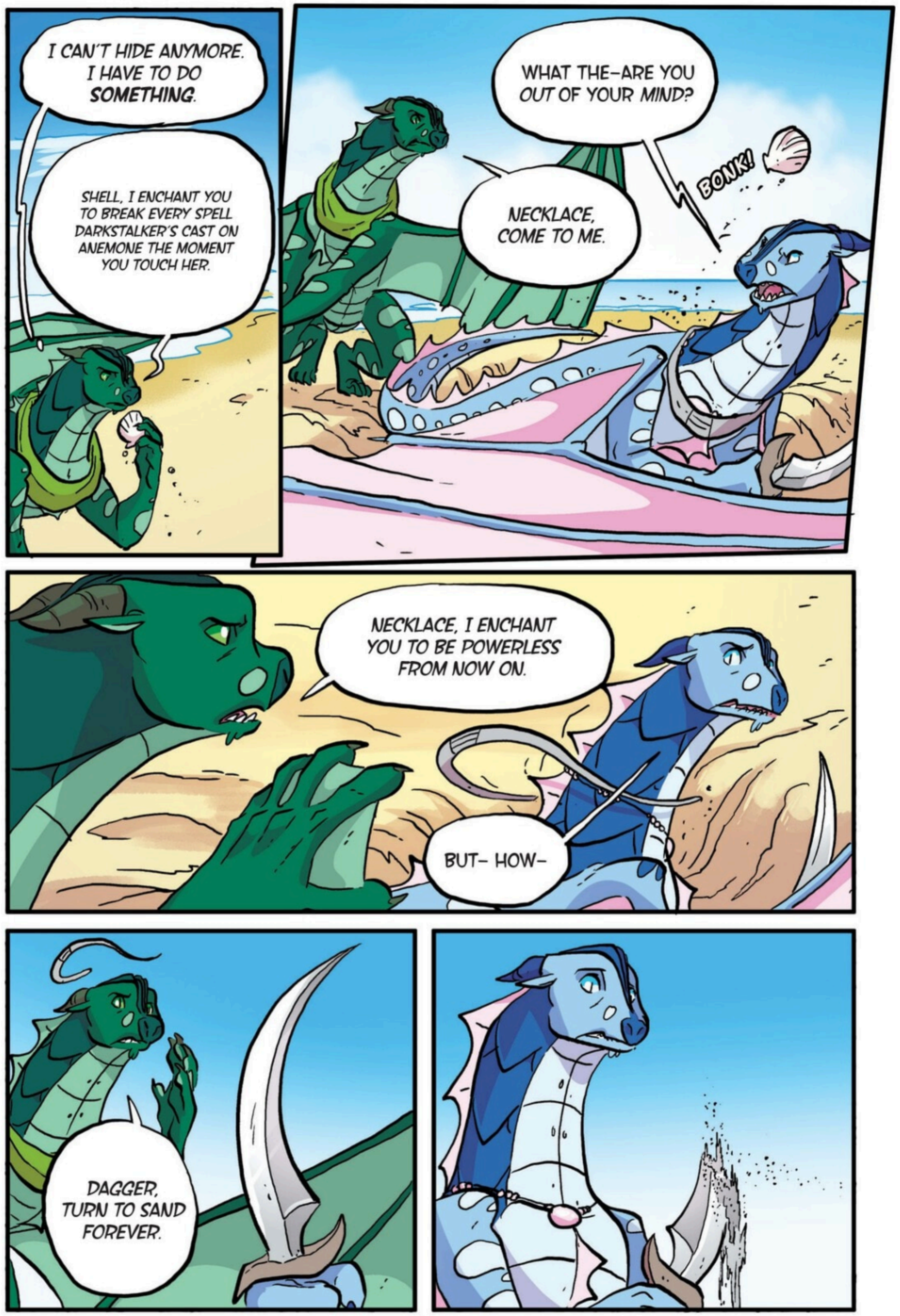

YOUR MAJESTY, A DRAGON FROM THE TALONS OF PEACE IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE PALACE, AUKLET.
OK!
BYE, TURTLE!
I WON'T LET ANYONE HURT YOU, LITTLE SISTER.
SO MY CORAL **WAS** GUIDING ME TO SNAPPER. IT ONLY SEEMED LIKE IT DIDN'T WORK BECAUSE SHE WAS IN THE SUMMER PALACE.
THE CORAL! I CAN USE THAT TO FIGURE OUT WHERE ANEMONE IS!
...THAT REALLY SHOULD HAVE OCCURRED TO ME EARLIER...
PLEASE LET IT TAKE ME BACK TO JADE MOUNTAIN.

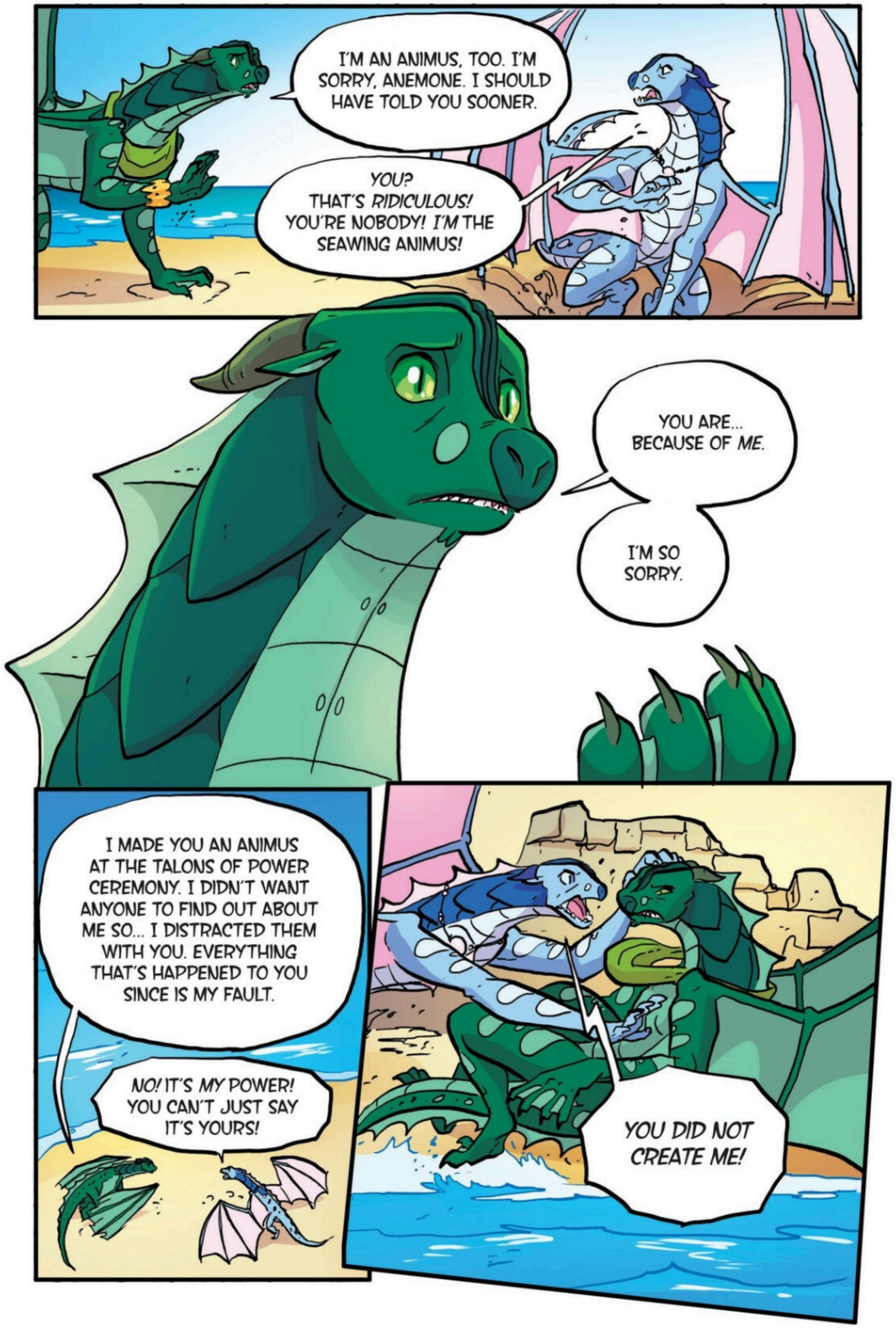

ANEMONE. WHERE IS MY SISTER?
IT'S LEADING ME AWAY FROM THE DEEP PALACE! SHE'S **NOT** LYING IN WAIT TO KILL MOTHER!
THE ISLAND PALACE! WHERE THE ANIMUS TEST WAS.
WHERE I CURSED ANEMONE WITH MY POWER SO I COULD STAY HIDDEN.
WHY IS SHE **HERE?**
MUTTER MUTTER MUMBLE...

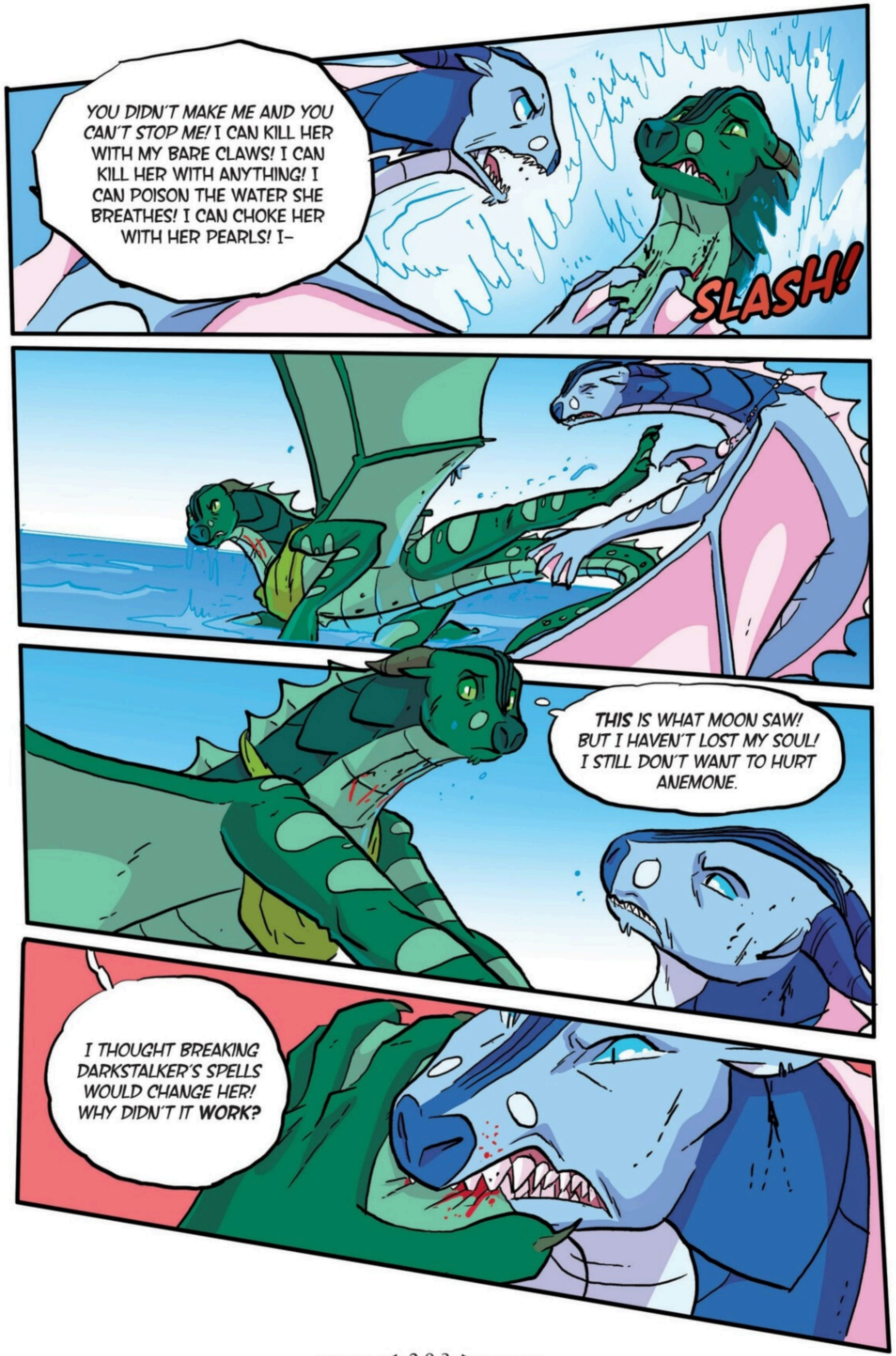

TURTLE!
BOP!
TURTLE! YOU *BORING LUMP OF KELP!* YOU RUIN *EVERYTHING!* WHY CAN'T YOU LEAVE ME *ALONE?*
YOU'RE MY SISTER, ANEMONE. I'M *WORRIED* ABOUT YOU.
ARE YOU? OR ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT WHAT I MIGHT *DO?*
UM. THAT, TOO?
WELL, YOU CAN'T *STOP* ME, SO THERE'S NO POINT IN YOU BEING HERE. GO BACK TO YOUR LOSER FRIENDS AND YOUR HYPNOTIZED GIRLFRIEND.
YOU PUT THAT SPELL ON HER!
BECAUSE YOU'RE A *WIMP* WHO'S AFRAID TO EVEN *TRY* FOR WHAT HE WANTS!
BUT *I'M* NOT LIKE YOU. I'M GETTING EXACTLY WHAT I WANT AND I'M GETTING IT *MY* WAY.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
SOMETHING WHIRLPOOL SAID HE HID FOR ME. GO AWAY, TURTLE.

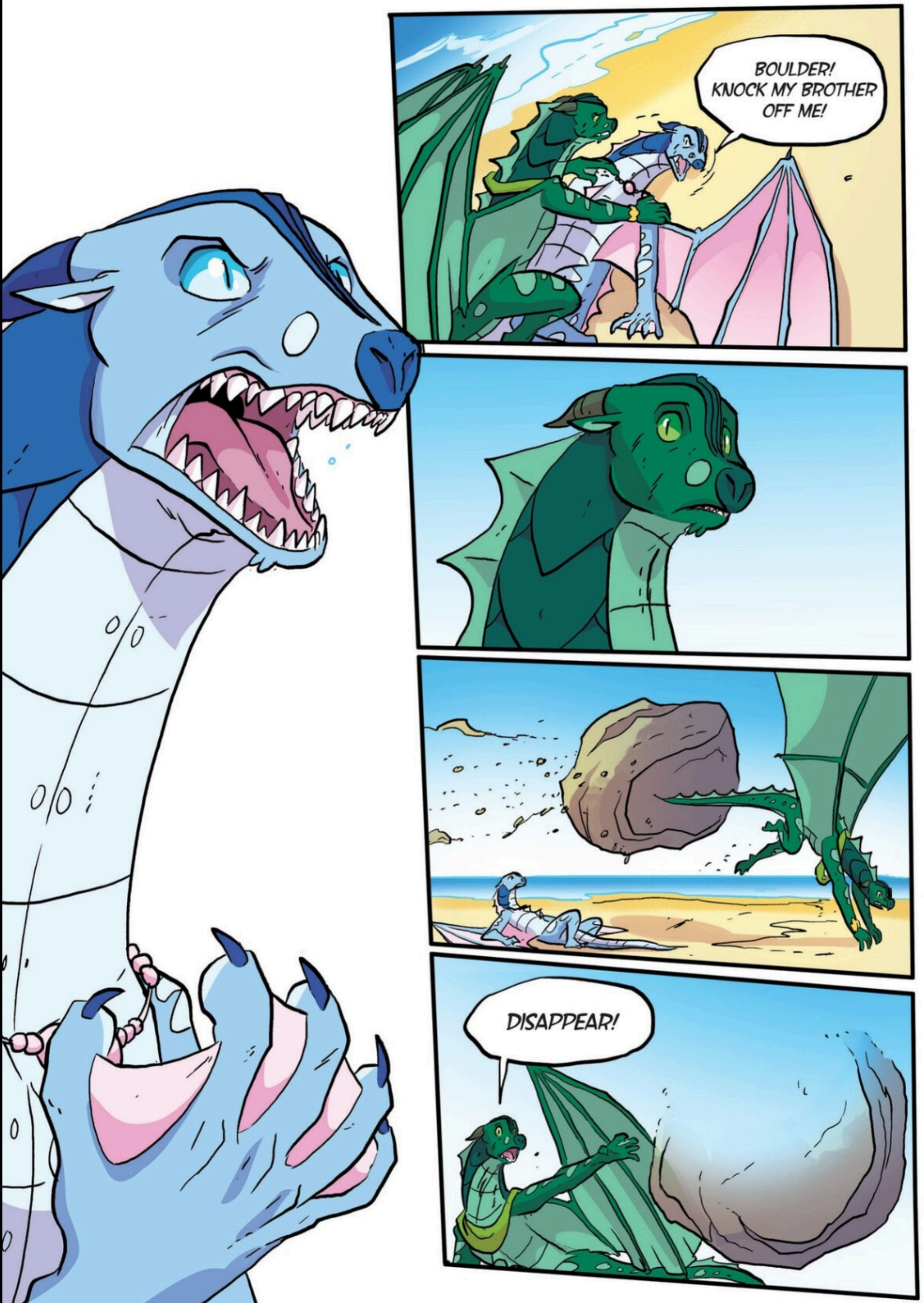

ANEMONE, I'M AFRAID DARKSTALKER PUT A SPELL ON YOU.
HEH. WELL, THAT WOULD BE IRONIC.
I THINK IT'S VENGEANCE FOR WHAT FATHOM DID. DARKSTALKER MIGHT HAVE ENCHANTED YOU TO KILL MOTHER. MAYBE OUR WHOLE FAMILY.
MAYBE, BUT IF I DO, I'LL BE QUEEN OF THE SEAWINGS, AND HE'LL *HAVE* TO RESPECT ME. MAYBE HE'LL BE PROUD OF ME THEN.
HOW CAN YOU NOT *CARE,* ANEMONE? IS IT YOUR SOUL?
THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE SOUL IS *RIDICULOUS.*
IT'S JUST *STUPID* TO THINK IT'S LIKE A BLOCK OF STONE AND MY MAGIC IS CHIPPING AWAY AT IT.
WHERE *IS* IT? IF WHIRLPOOL WAS LYING TO ME, I'LL HUNT DOWN HIS FLOATING CORPSE AND KILL HIM AGAIN.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *AGAIN?*
DID YOU THINK HE *ACCIDENTALLY* FELL INTO THAT POOL OF EELS? HE WAS TRYING TO KILL TSUNAMI.
SO I TOOK CARE OF HIM.
SHRUG

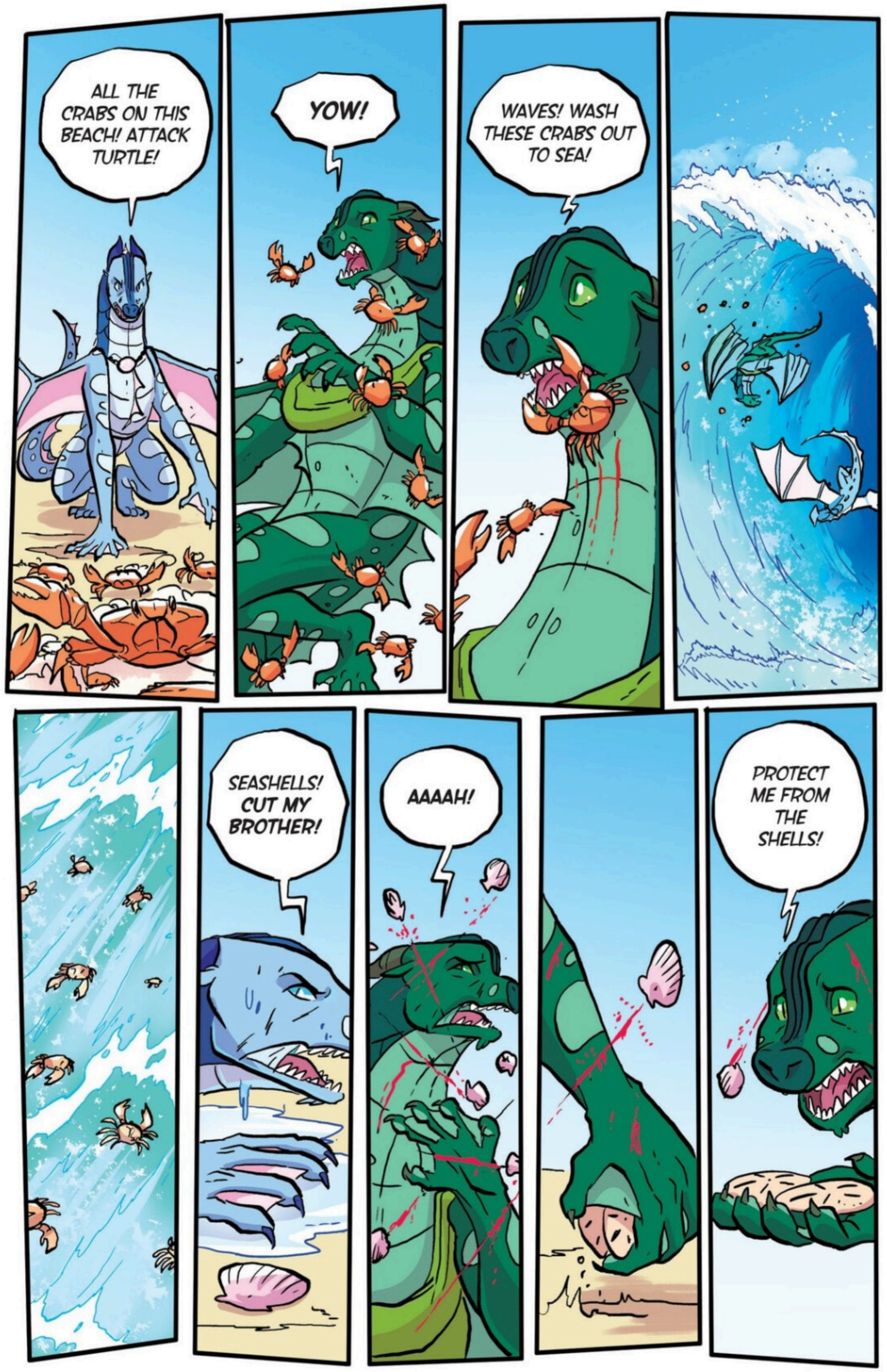

THREE MOONS! I'VE WORRIED FOR YEARS ABOUT HOW THE MAGIC I GAVE ANEMONE MIGHT AFFECT HER—AND YET WHEN SHE DID SOMETHING BIG AND TERRIBLE, I COMPLETELY MISSED IT.
AHA!
THREE MOONS. *ANEMONE.*
WHIRLPOOL WANTED TO BE KING PRETTY BADLY. HE HID THIS FOR ME TO USE AGAINST MOTHER.
I THINK IT'LL WORK ON LITTLE SISTERS, TOO, DON'T YOU? AND *BIG* ONES.
...BUT YOU *CAN'T.*
SURE I CAN. I'LL ENCHANT THIS THING SO IT'LL NEVER MISS.
IT'LL KILL MOTHER, THEN AUKLET, TSUNAMI, YOU... MOON. MAYBE KINKAJOU, TOO. HE DID SAY *ANYONE* WHO GETS IN MY WAY.

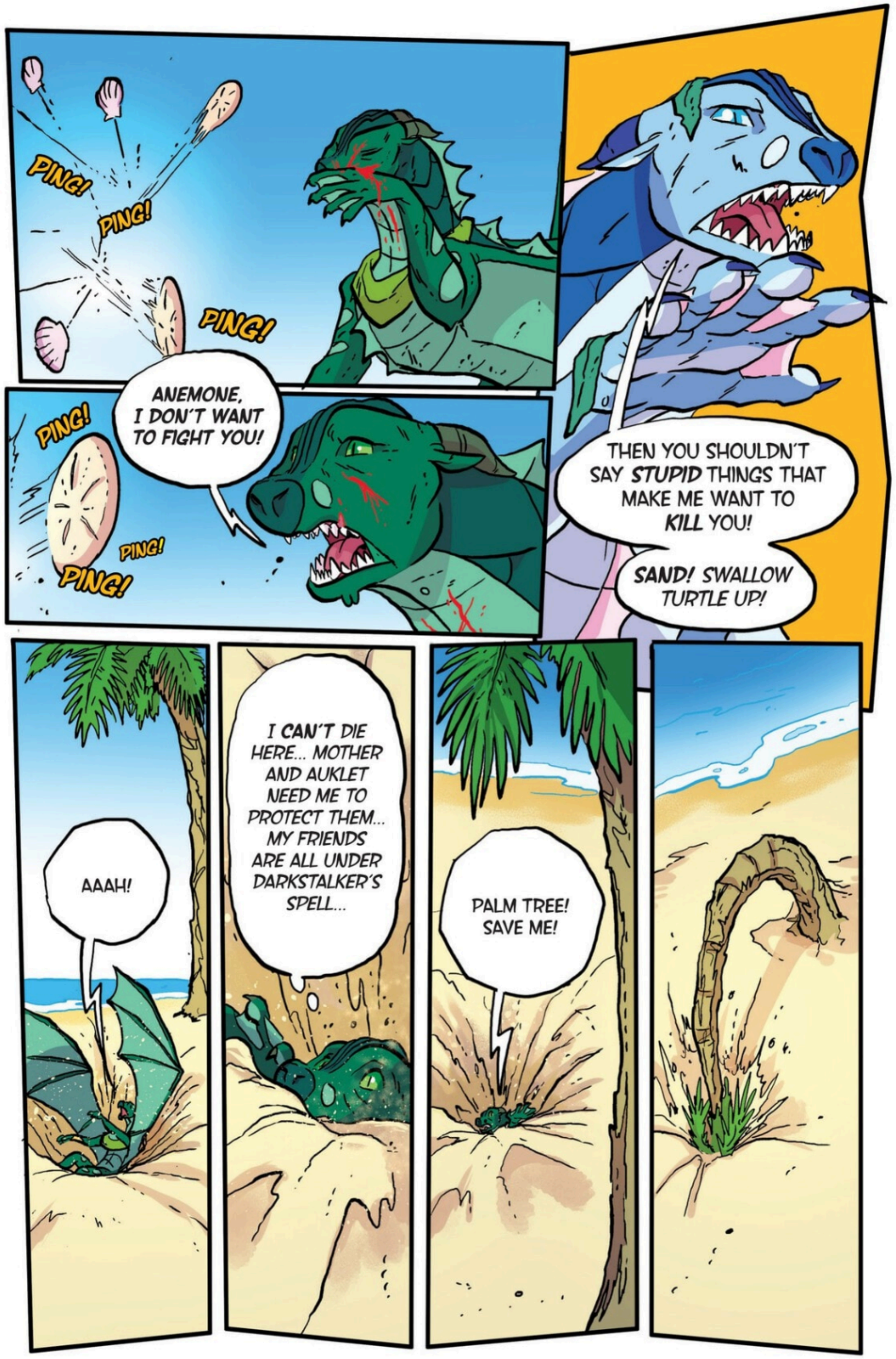

I CAN'T HIDE ANYMORE. I HAVE TO DO **SOMETHING.**
SHELL, I ENCHANT YOU TO BREAK EVERY SPELL DARKSTALKER'S CAST ON ANEMONE THE MOMENT YOU TOUCH HER.
WHAT THE—ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
BONK!
NECKLACE, COME TO ME.
NECKLACE, I ENCHANT YOU TO BE POWERLESS FROM NOW ON.
BUT— HOW—
DAGGER, TURN TO SAND FOREVER.

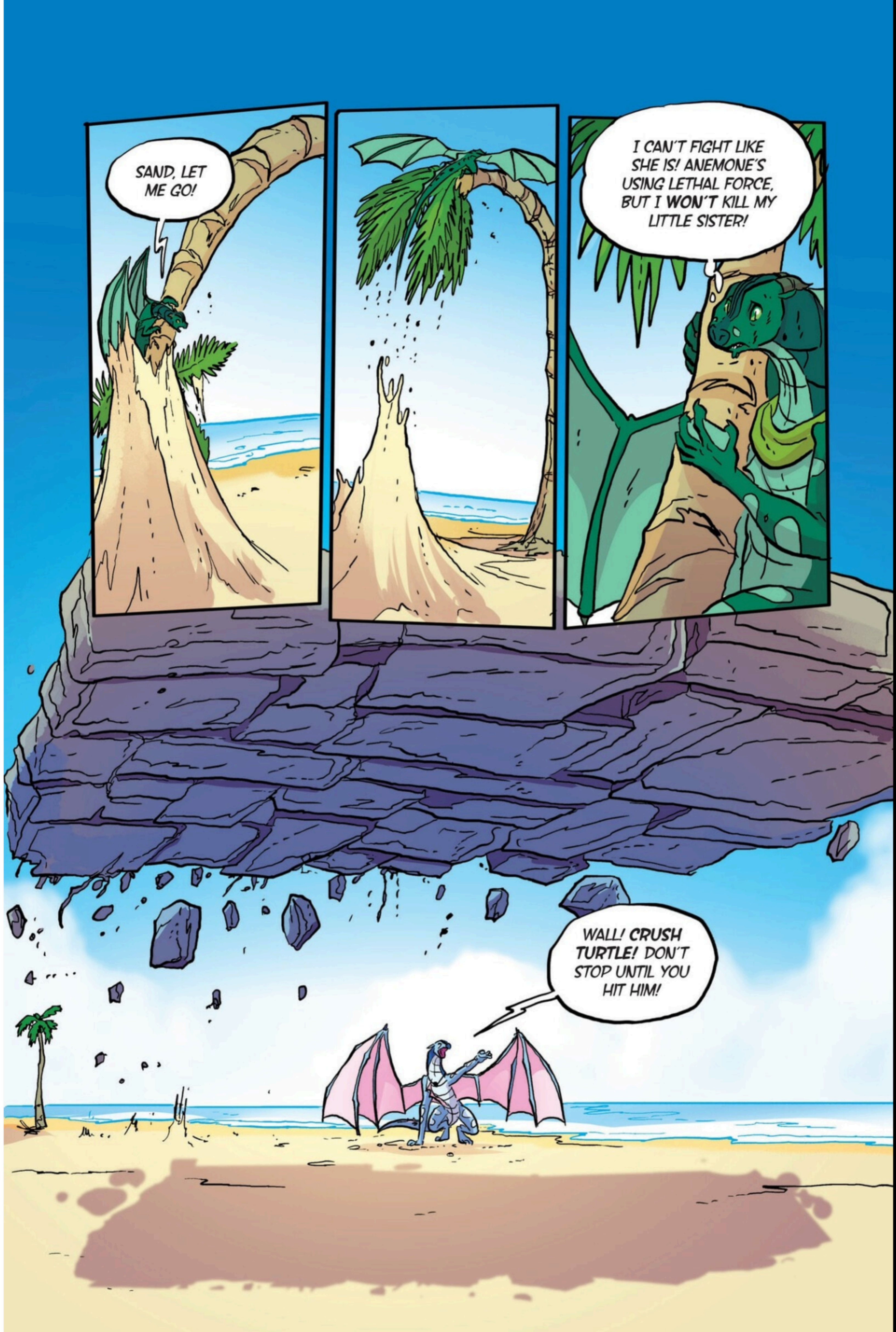

I'M AN ANIMUS, TOO. I'M SORRY, ANEMONE. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER.
YOU? THAT'S *RIDICULOUS!* YOU'RE NOBODY! *I'M* THE SEAWING ANIMUS!
YOU ARE... BECAUSE OF *ME.*
I'M SO SORRY.
I MADE YOU AN ANIMUS AT THE TALONS OF POWER CEREMONY. I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND OUT ABOUT ME SO... I DISTRACTED THEM WITH YOU. EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU SINCE IS MY FAULT.
NO! IT'S MY POWER! YOU CAN'T JUST SAY IT'S YOURS!
YOU DID NOT CREATE ME!

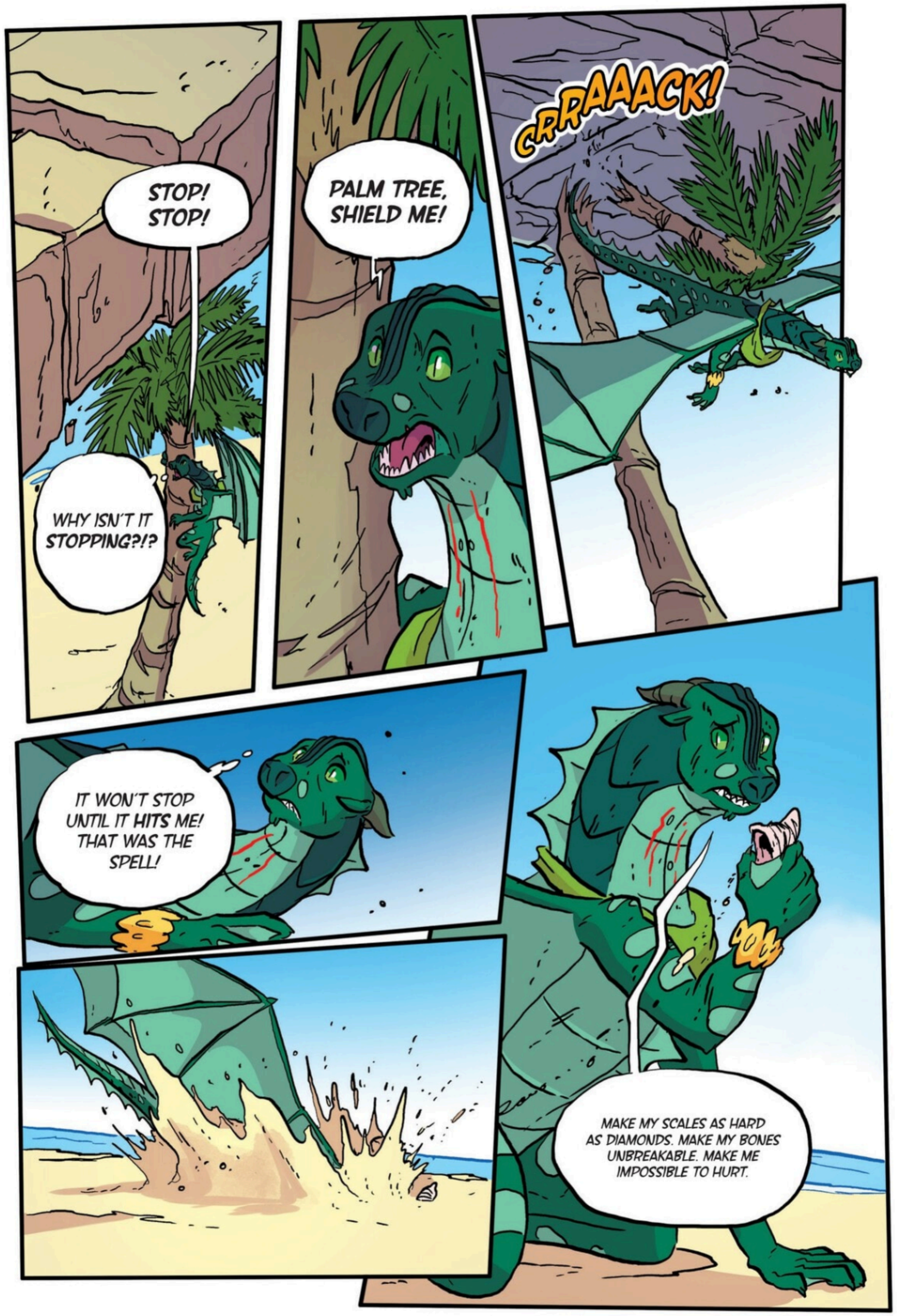

YOU DIDN'T MAKE ME AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME! I CAN KILL HER WITH MY BARE CLAWS! I CAN KILL HER WITH ANYTHING! I CAN POISON THE WATER SHE BREATHES! I CAN CHOKE HER WITH HER PEARLS! I–
SLASH!
THIS IS WHAT MOON SAW! BUT I HAVEN'T LOST MY SOUL! I STILL DON'T WANT TO HURT ANEMONE.
I THOUGHT BREAKING DARKSTALKER'S SPELLS WOULD CHANGE HER! WHY DIDN'T IT **WORK?**

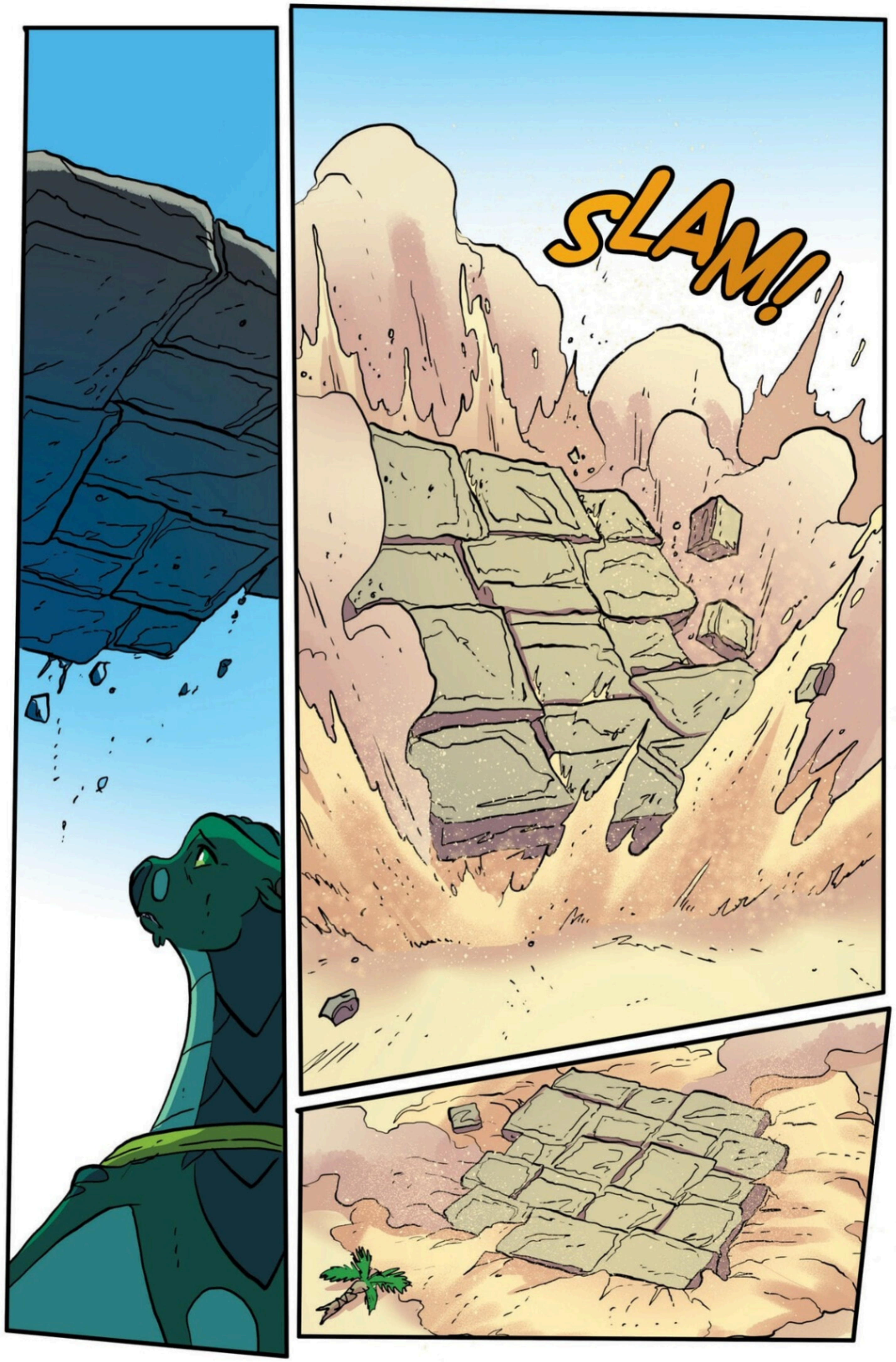

BOULDER! KNOCK MY BROTHER OFF ME!
DISAPPEAR!

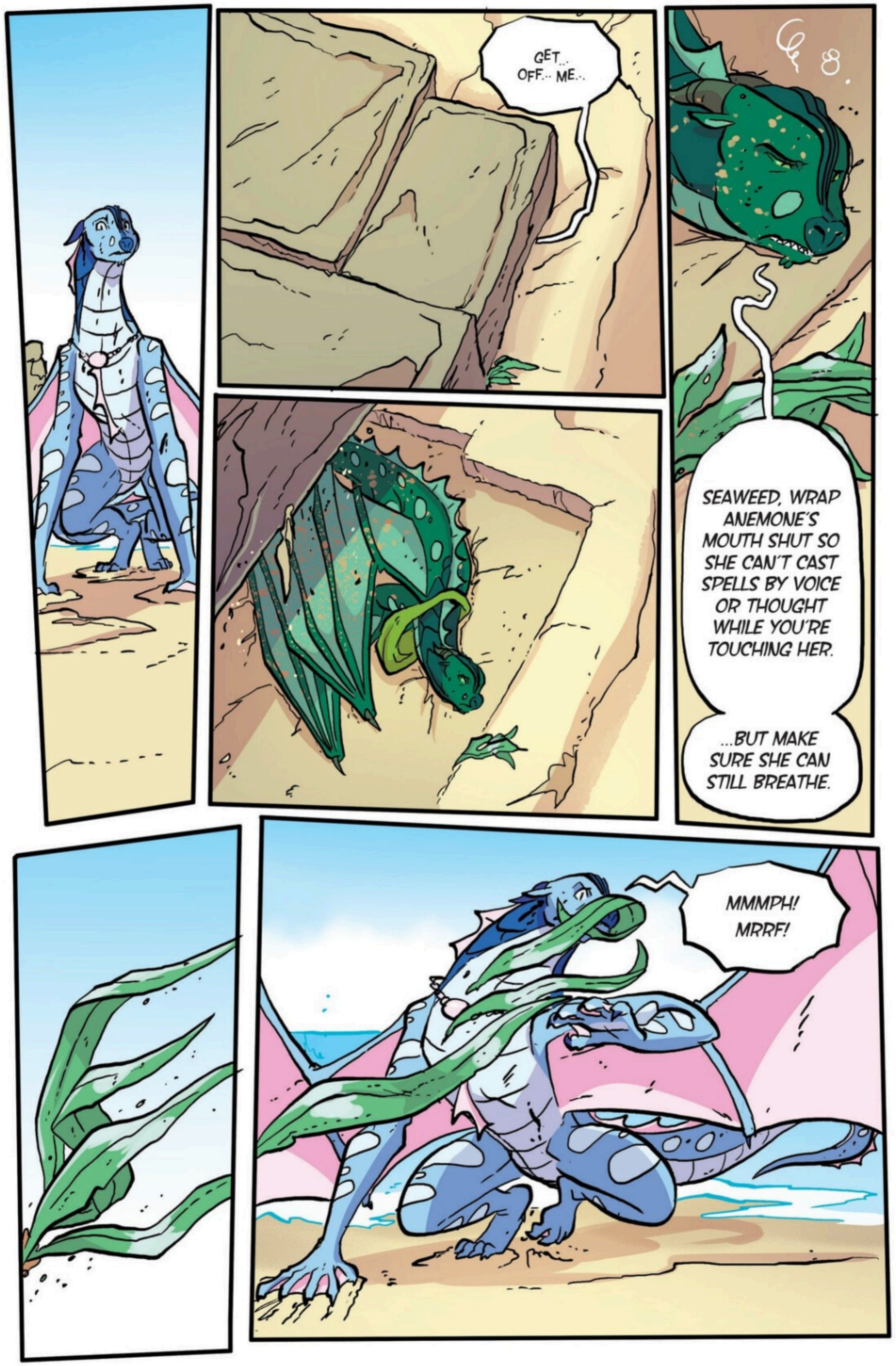

ALL THE CRABS ON THIS BEACH! ATTACK TURTLE!
YOW!
WAVES! WASH THESE CRABS OUT TO SEA!
SEASHELLS! CUT MY BROTHER!
AAAAH!
PROTECT ME FROM THE SHELLS!

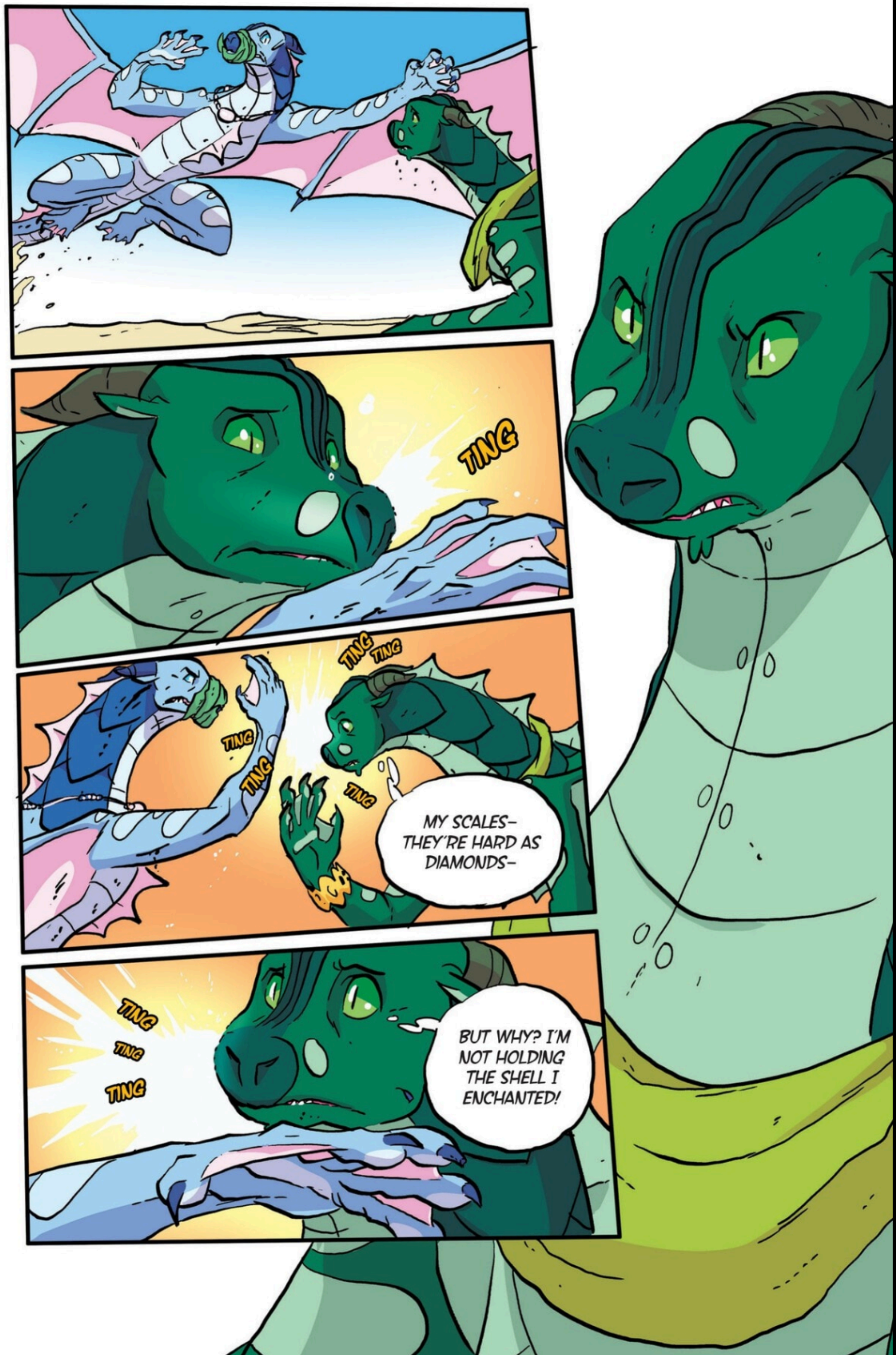

PING!
PING!
PING!
PING!
ANEMONE, I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!
PING!
PING!
THEN YOU SHOULDN'T SAY **STUPID** THINGS THAT MAKE ME WANT TO **KILL** YOU!
SAND! SWALLOW TURTLE UP!
AAAH!
I **CAN'T** DIE HERE... MOTHER AND AUKLET NEED ME TO PROTECT THEM... MY FRIENDS ARE ALL UNDER DARKSTALKER'S SPELL...
PALM TREE! SAVE ME!

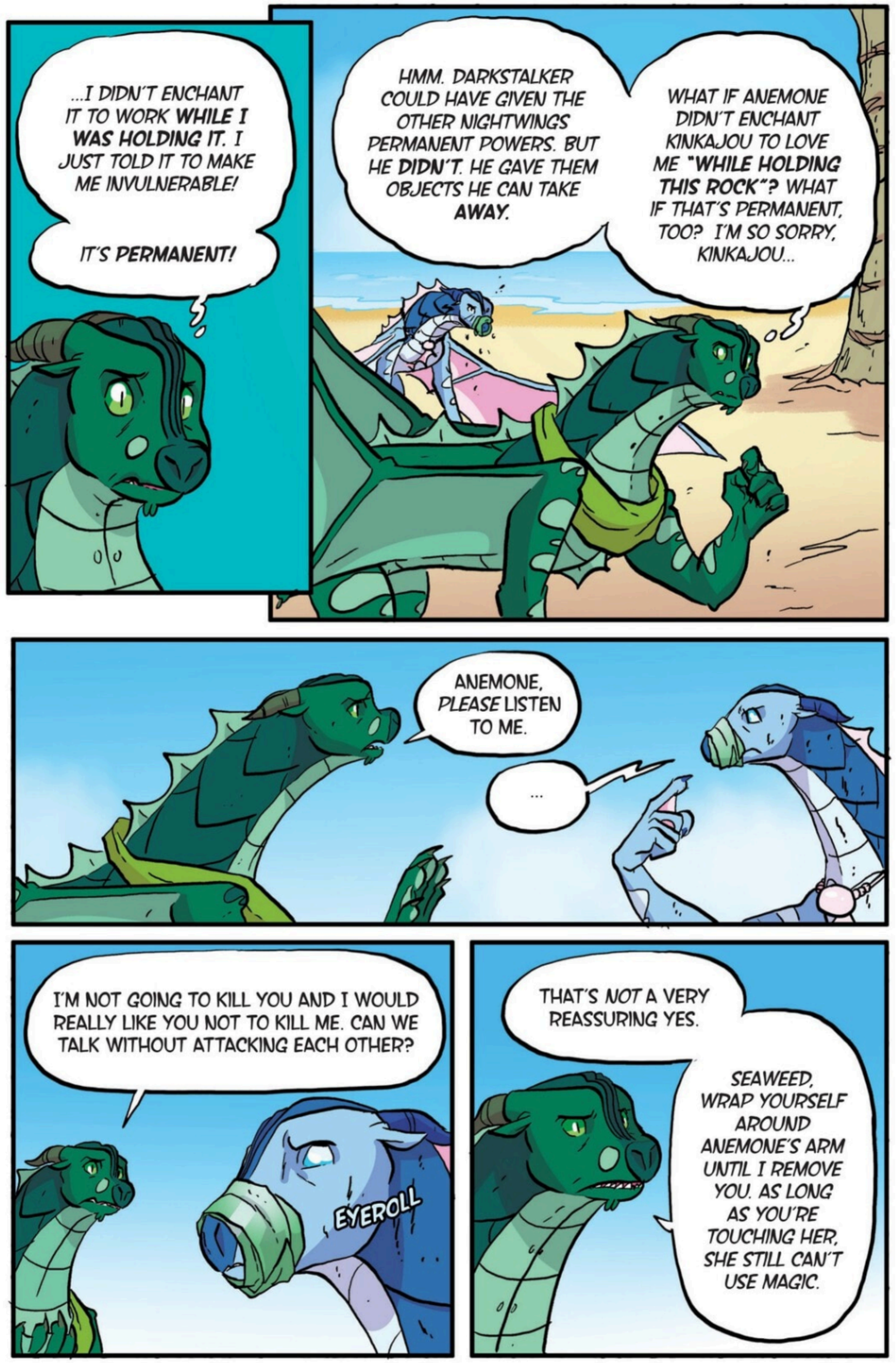

SAND, LET ME GO!
I CAN'T FIGHT LIKE SHE IS! ANEMONE'S USING LETHAL FORCE, BUT I **WON'T** KILL MY LITTLE SISTER!
WALL! **CRUSH TURTLE!** DON'T STOP UNTIL YOU HIT HIM!

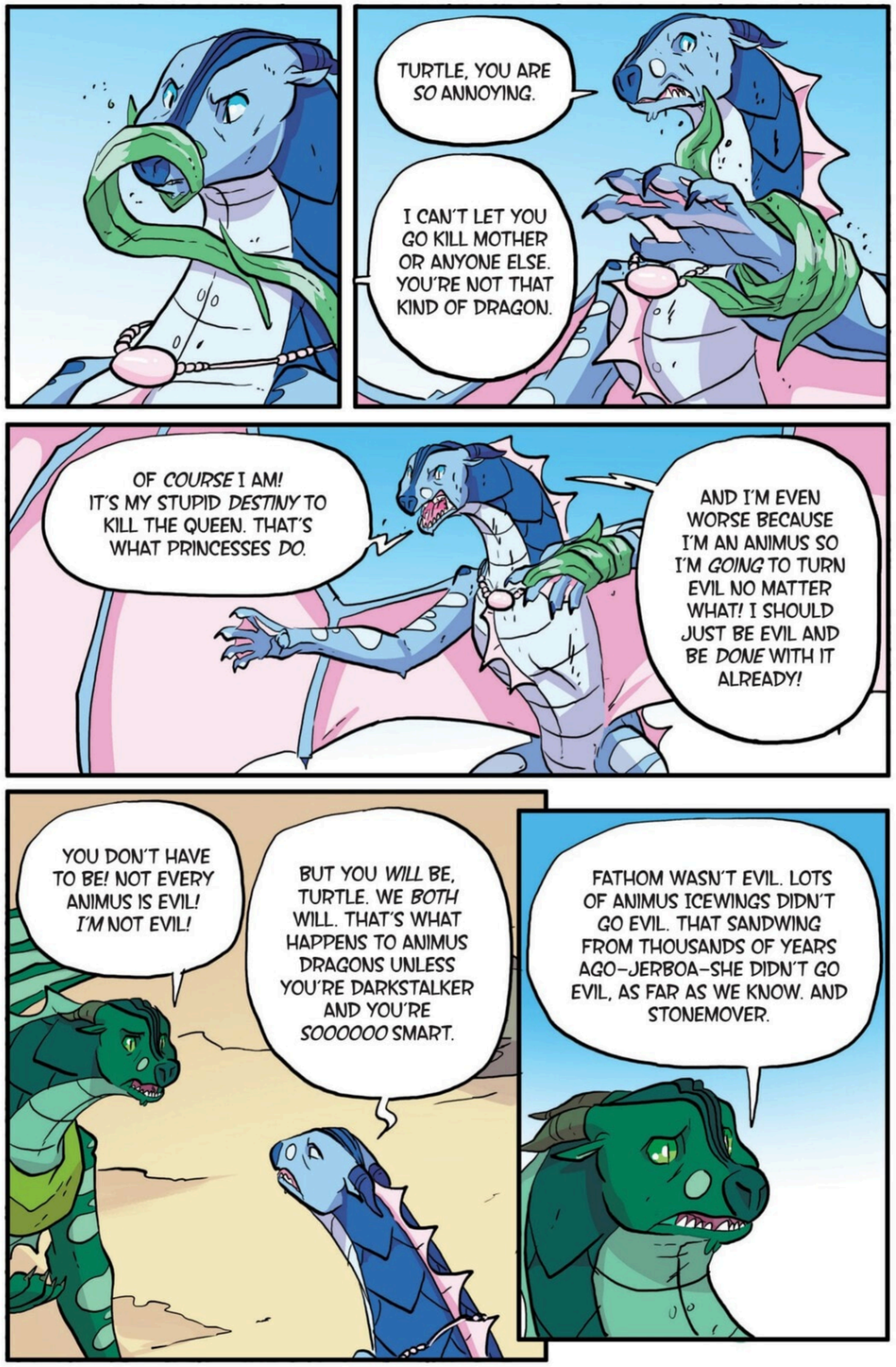

STOP! STOP!
WHY ISN'T IT STOPPING?!?
PALM TREE, SHIELD ME!
CRRAAACK!
IT WON'T STOP UNTIL IT HITS ME! THAT WAS THE SPELL!
MAKE MY SCALES AS HARD AS DIAMONDS. MAKE MY BONES UNBREAKABLE. MAKE ME IMPOSSIBLE TO HURT.

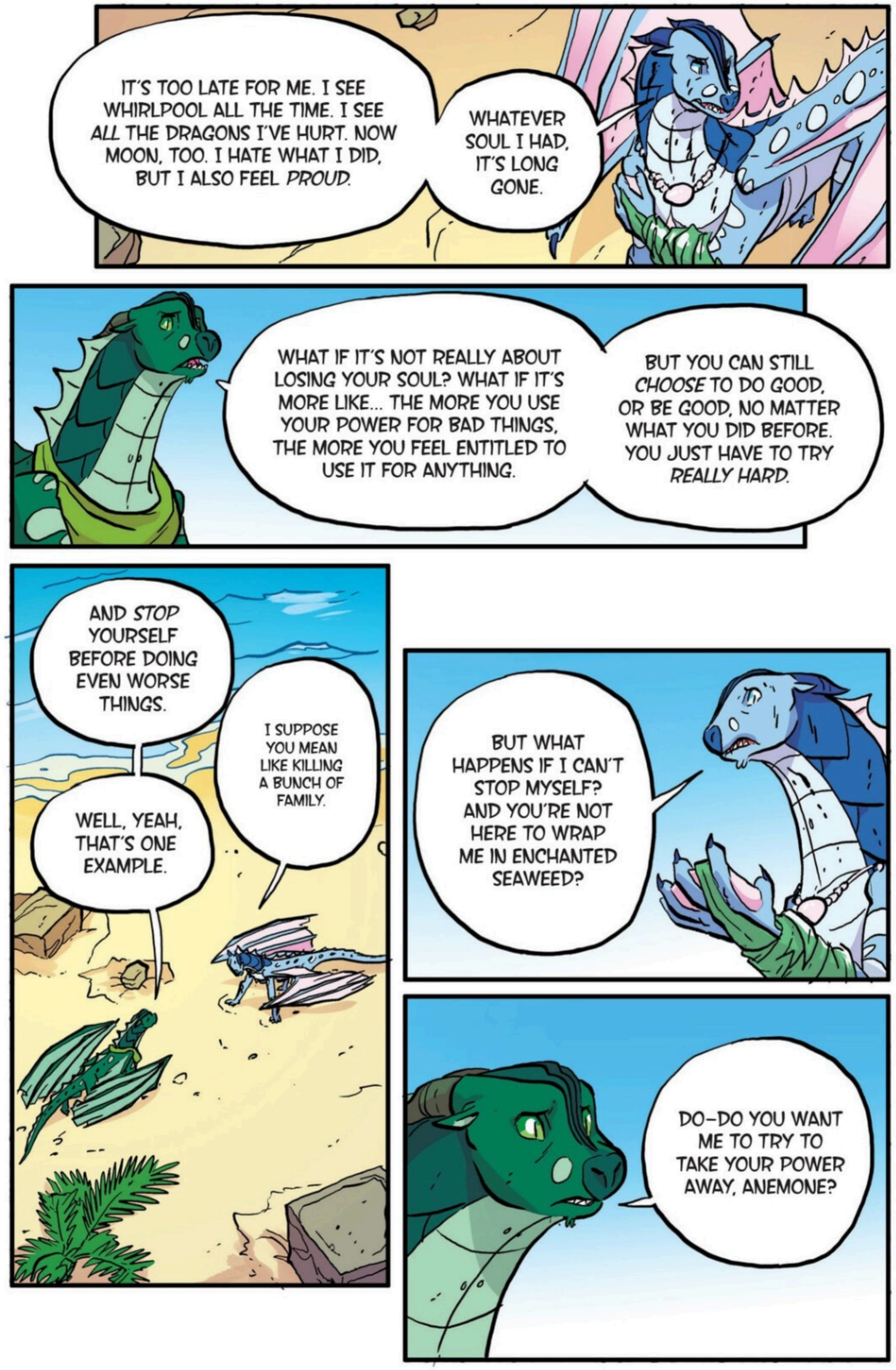

SLAM!

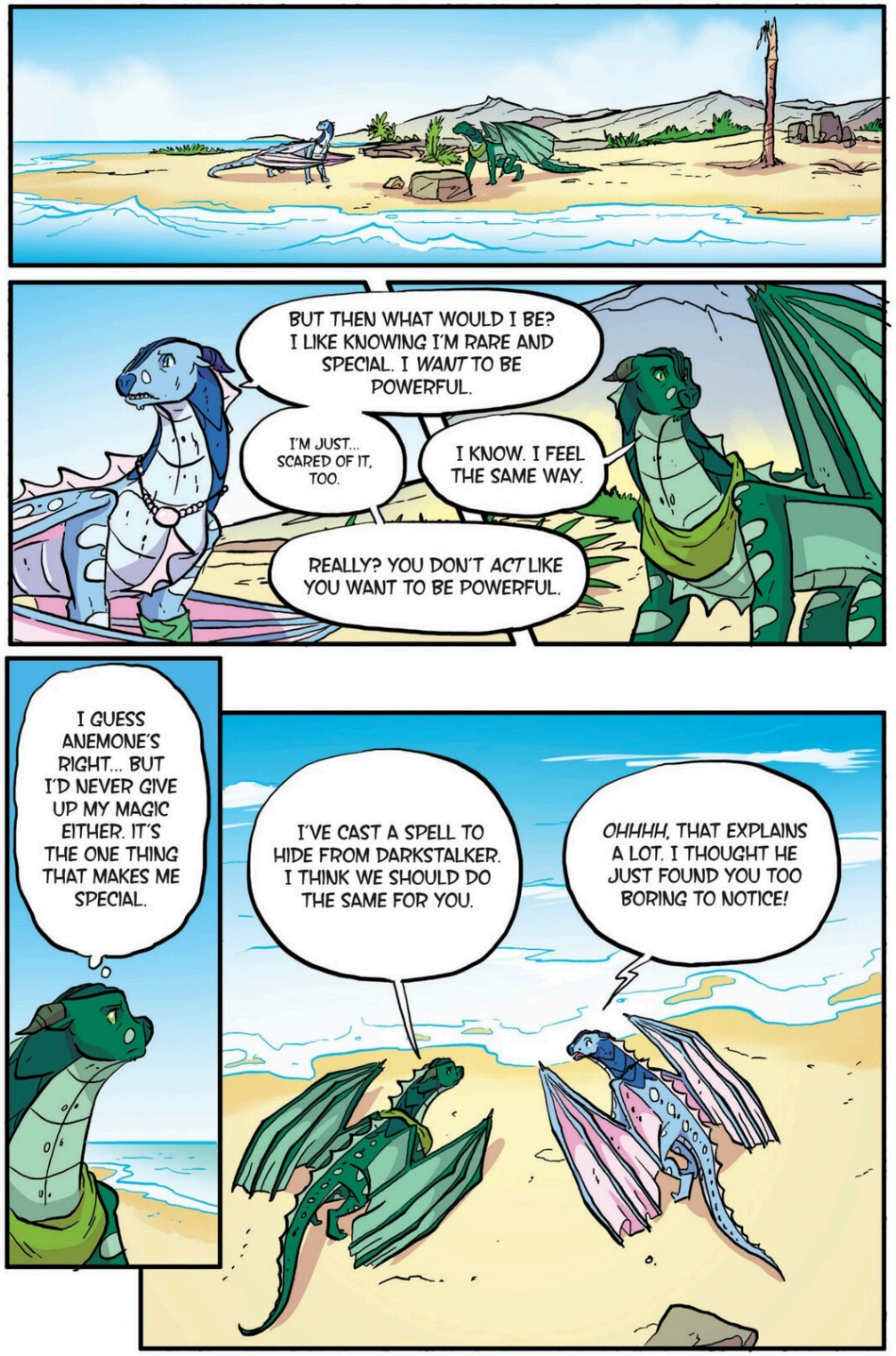

GET... OFF... ME...
SEAWEED, WRAP ANEMONE'S MOUTH SHUT SO SHE CAN'T CAST SPELLS BY VOICE OR THOUGHT WHILE YOU'RE TOUCHING HER.
...BUT MAKE SURE SHE CAN STILL BREATHE.
MMMPH! MRRF!

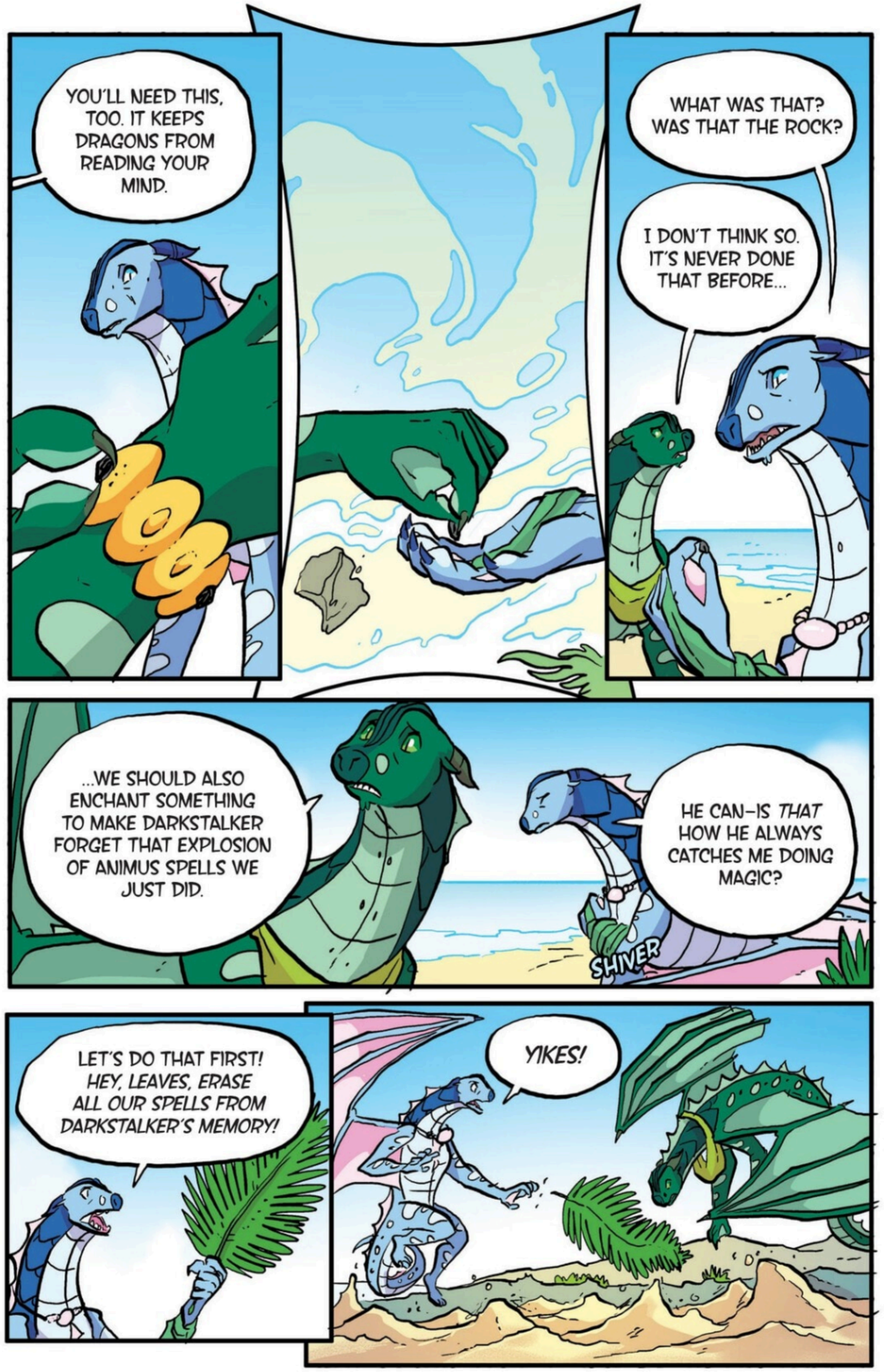

TING
TING
TING
TING
TING
TING
MY SCALES— THEY'RE HARD AS DIAMONDS—
TING
TING
TING
BUT WHY? I'M NOT HOLDING THE SHELL I ENCHANTED!

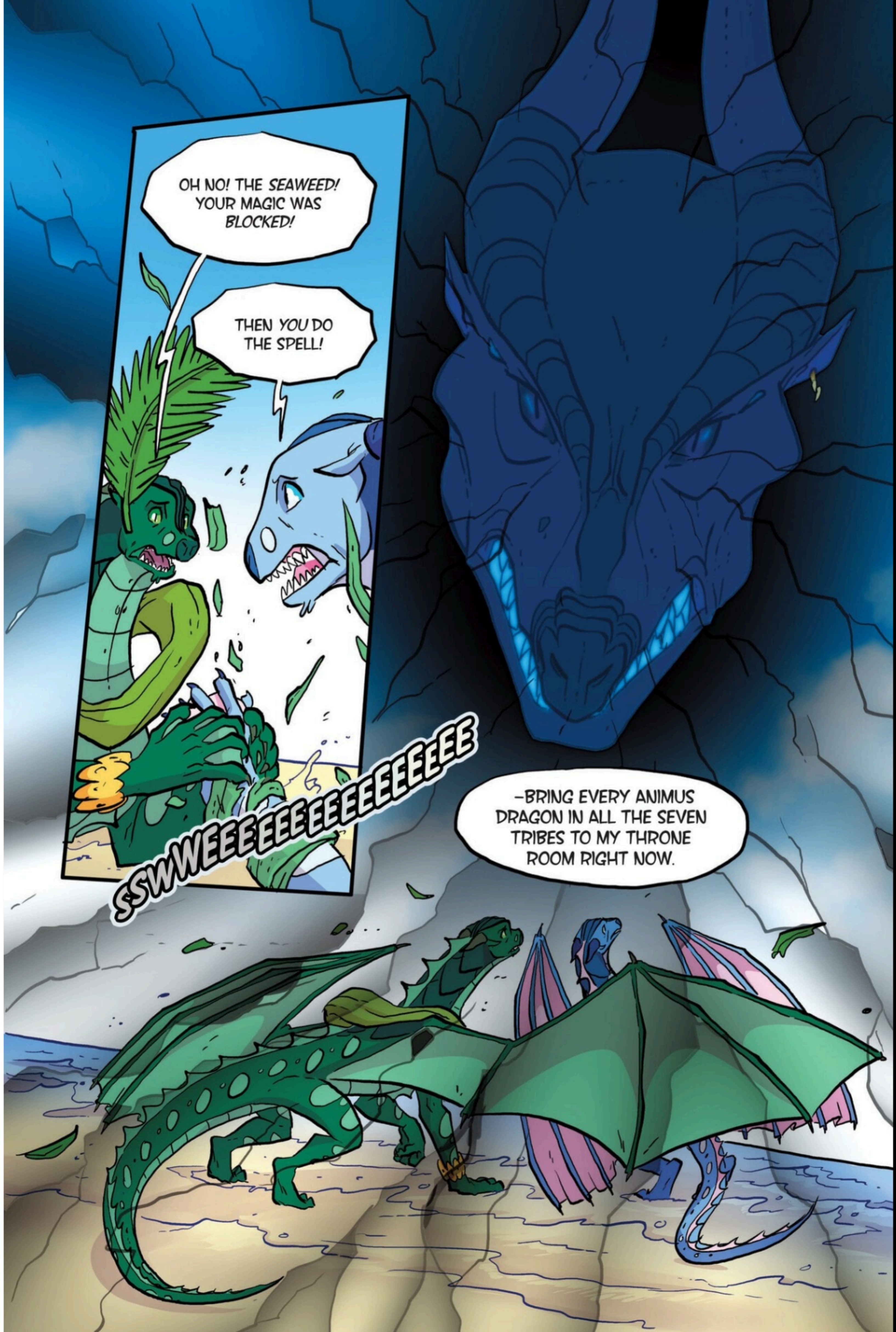

...I DIDN'T ENCHANT IT TO WORK **WHILE I WAS HOLDING IT.** I JUST TOLD IT TO MAKE ME INVULNERABLE!
IT'S **PERMANENT!**
HMM. DARKSTALKER COULD HAVE GIVEN THE OTHER NIGHTWINGS PERMANENT POWERS. BUT HE **DIDN'T.** HE GAVE THEM OBJECTS HE CAN TAKE **AWAY.**
WHAT IF ANEMONE DIDN'T ENCHANT KINKAJOU TO LOVE ME **"WHILE HOLDING THIS ROCK"?** WHAT IF THAT'S PERMANENT, TOO? I'M SO SORRY, KINKAJOU...
ANEMONE, *PLEASE* LISTEN TO ME.
...
I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU AND I WOULD REALLY LIKE YOU NOT TO KILL ME. CAN WE TALK WITHOUT ATTACKING EACH OTHER?
EYEROLL
THAT'S *NOT* A VERY REASSURING YES.
SEAWEED, WRAP YOURSELF AROUND ANEMONE'S ARM UNTIL I REMOVE YOU. AS LONG AS YOU'RE TOUCHING HER, SHE STILL CAN'T USE MAGIC.

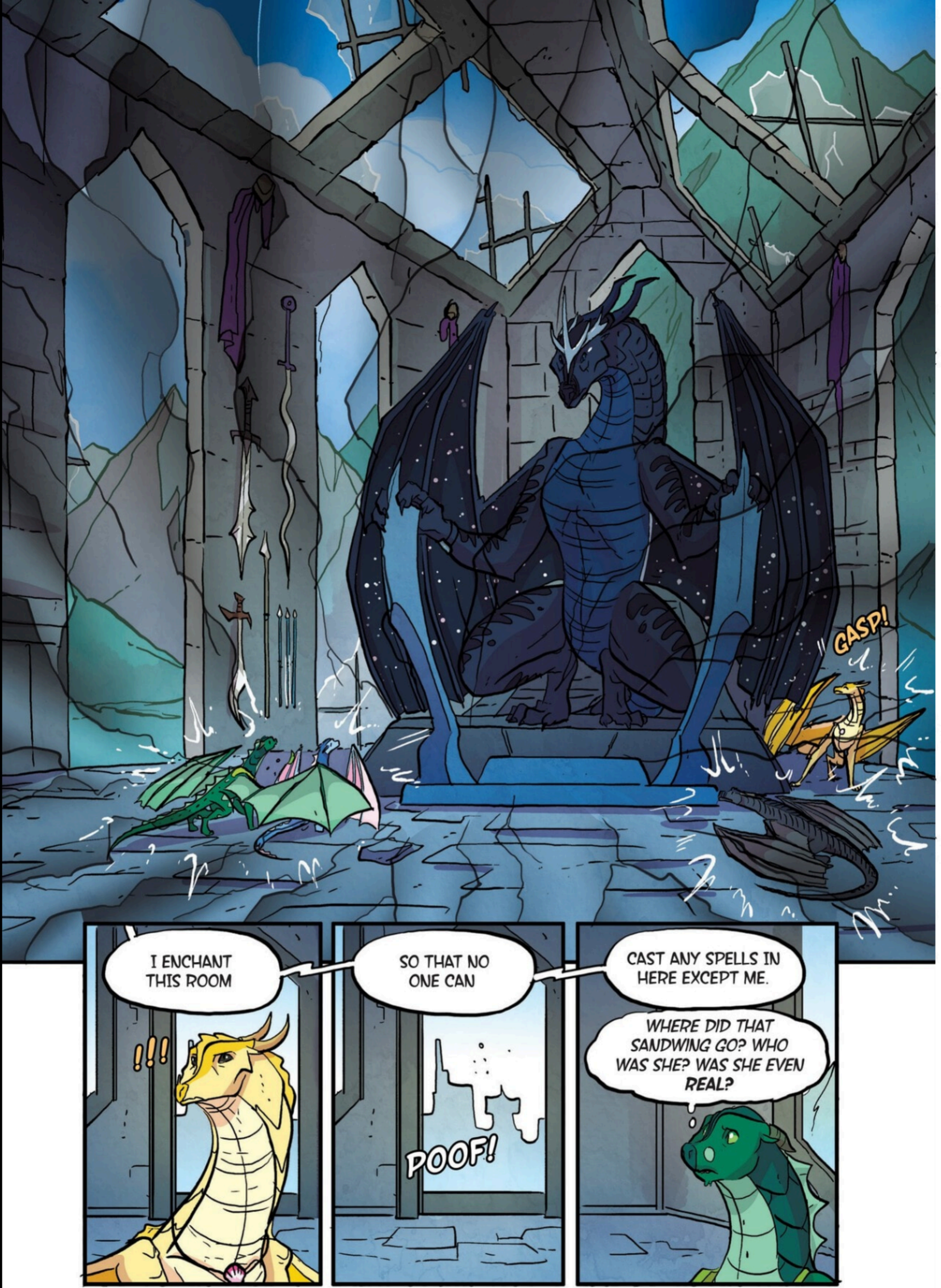

TURTLE, YOU ARE *SO* ANNOYING.
I CAN'T LET YOU GO KILL MOTHER OR ANYONE ELSE. YOU'RE NOT THAT KIND OF DRAGON.
OF *COURSE* I AM! IT'S MY STUPID *DESTINY* TO KILL THE QUEEN. THAT'S WHAT PRINCESSES *DO.*
AND I'M EVEN WORSE BECAUSE I'M AN ANIMUS SO I'M *GOING* TO TURN EVIL NO MATTER WHAT! I SHOULD JUST BE EVIL AND BE *DONE* WITH IT ALREADY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE! NOT EVERY ANIMUS IS EVIL! *I'M* NOT EVIL!
BUT YOU *WILL* BE, TURTLE. WE *BOTH* WILL. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO ANIMUS DRAGONS UNLESS YOU'RE DARKSTALKER AND YOU'RE *SOOOOOO* SMART.
FATHOM WASN'T EVIL. LOTS OF ANIMUS ICEWINGS DIDN'T GO EVIL. THAT SANDWING FROM THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO–JERBOA–SHE DIDN'T GO EVIL, AS FAR AS WE KNOW. AND STONEMOVER.

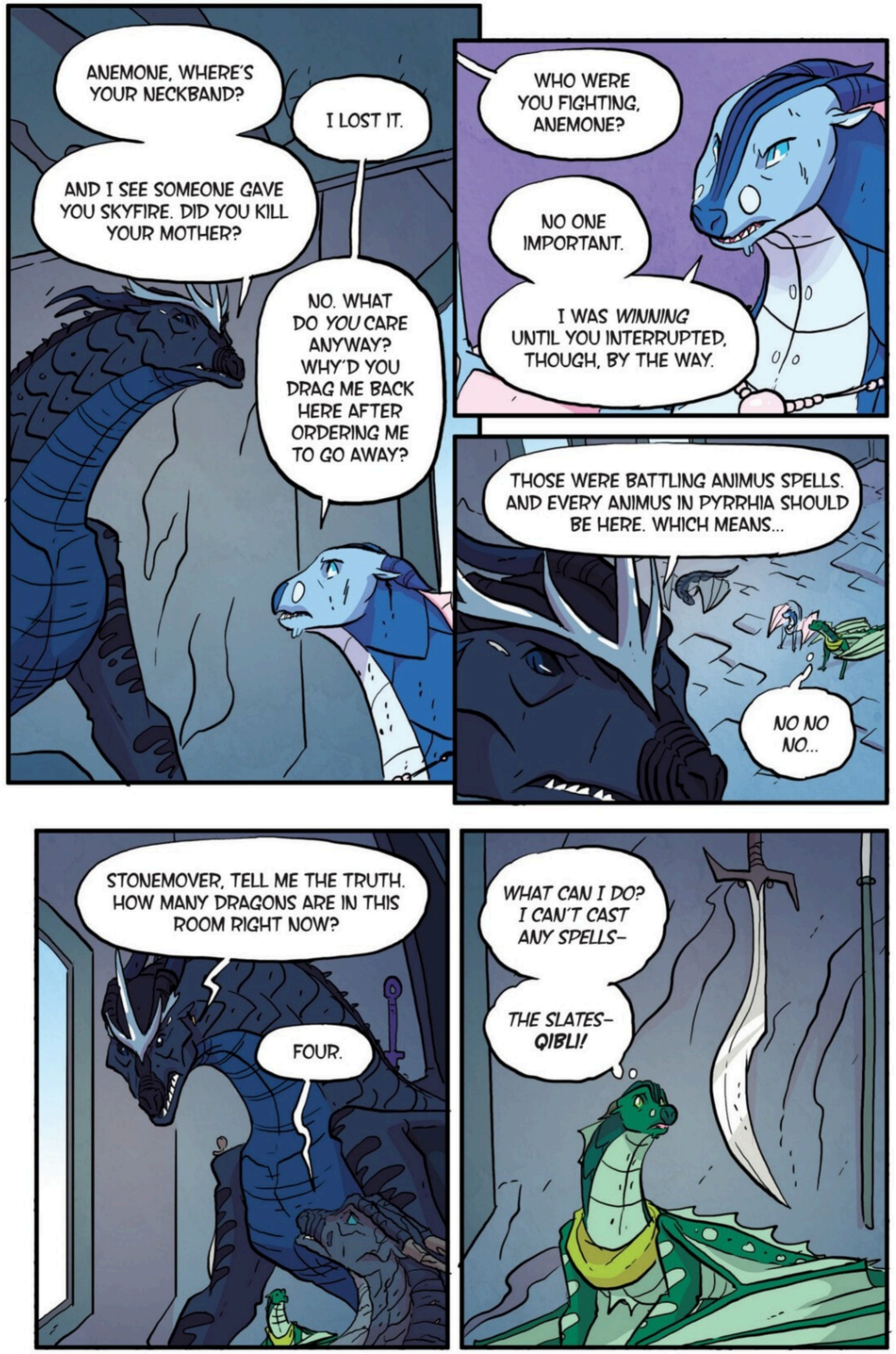

IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME. I SEE WHIRLPOOL ALL THE TIME. I SEE *ALL* THE DRAGONS I'VE HURT. NOW MOON, TOO. I HATE WHAT I DID, BUT I ALSO FEEL *PROUD*.
WHATEVER SOUL I HAD, IT'S LONG GONE.
WHAT IF IT'S NOT REALLY ABOUT LOSING YOUR SOUL? WHAT IF IT'S MORE LIKE... THE MORE YOU USE YOUR POWER FOR BAD THINGS, THE MORE YOU FEEL ENTITLED TO USE IT FOR ANYTHING.
BUT YOU CAN STILL *CHOOSE* TO DO GOOD, OR BE GOOD, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID BEFORE. YOU JUST HAVE TO TRY *REALLY HARD*.
AND *STOP* YOURSELF BEFORE DOING EVEN WORSE THINGS.
I SUPPOSE YOU MEAN LIKE KILLING A BUNCH OF FAMILY.
WELL, YEAH, THAT'S ONE EXAMPLE.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I CAN'T STOP MYSELF? AND YOU'RE NOT HERE TO WRAP ME IN ENCHANTED SEAWEED?
DO–DO YOU WANT ME TO TRY TO TAKE YOUR POWER AWAY, ANEMONE?

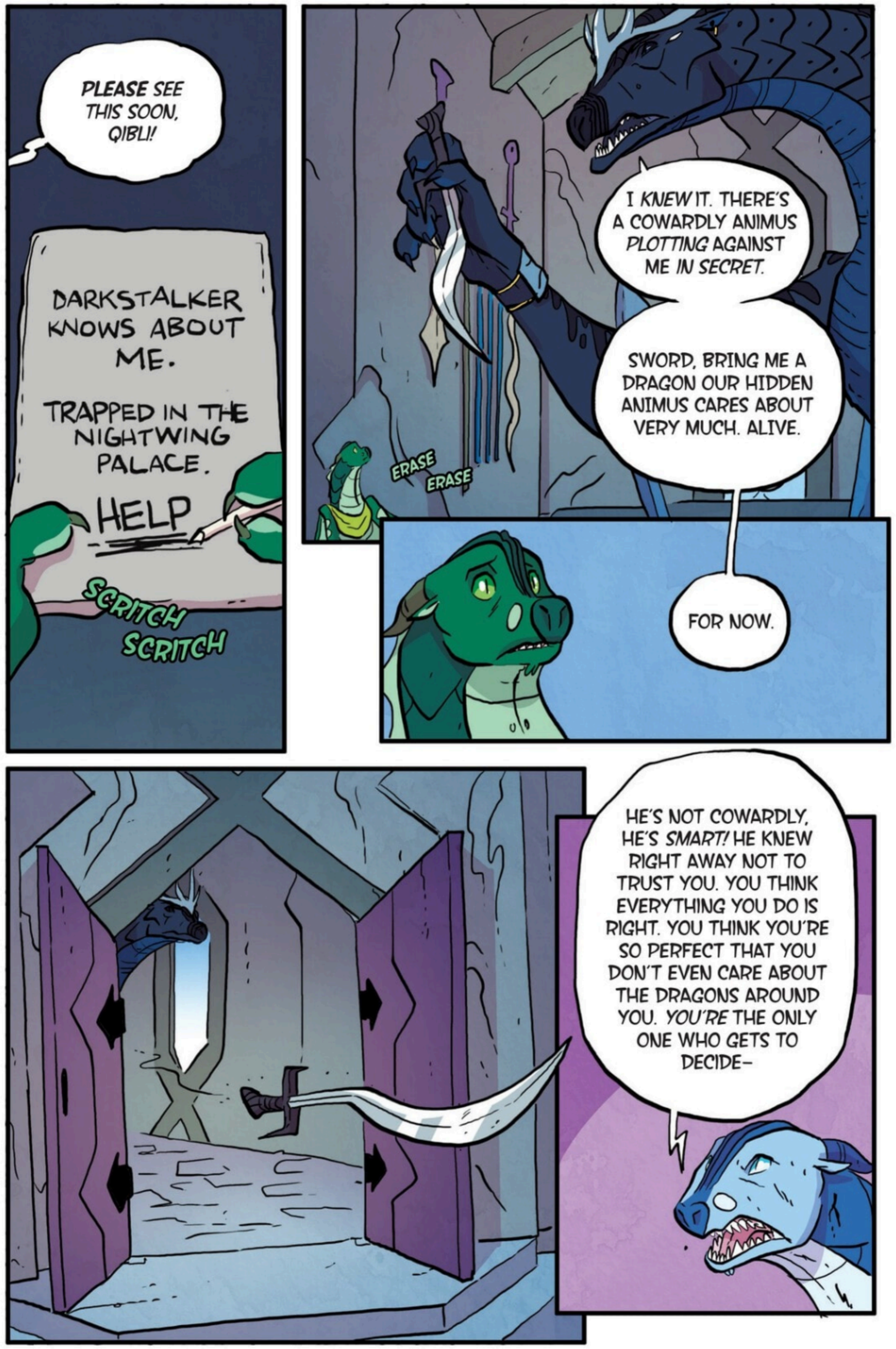

BUT THEN WHAT WOULD I BE? I LIKE KNOWING I'M RARE AND SPECIAL. I *WANT* TO BE POWERFUL.
I'M JUST... SCARED OF IT, TOO.
I KNOW. I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
REALLY? YOU DON'T *ACT* LIKE YOU WANT TO BE POWERFUL.
I GUESS ANEMONE'S RIGHT... BUT I'D NEVER GIVE UP MY MAGIC EITHER. IT'S THE ONE THING THAT MAKES ME SPECIAL.
I'VE CAST A SPELL TO HIDE FROM DARKSTALKER. I THINK WE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR YOU.
OHHHH, THAT EXPLAINS A LOT. I THOUGHT HE JUST FOUND YOU TOO BORING TO NOTICE!

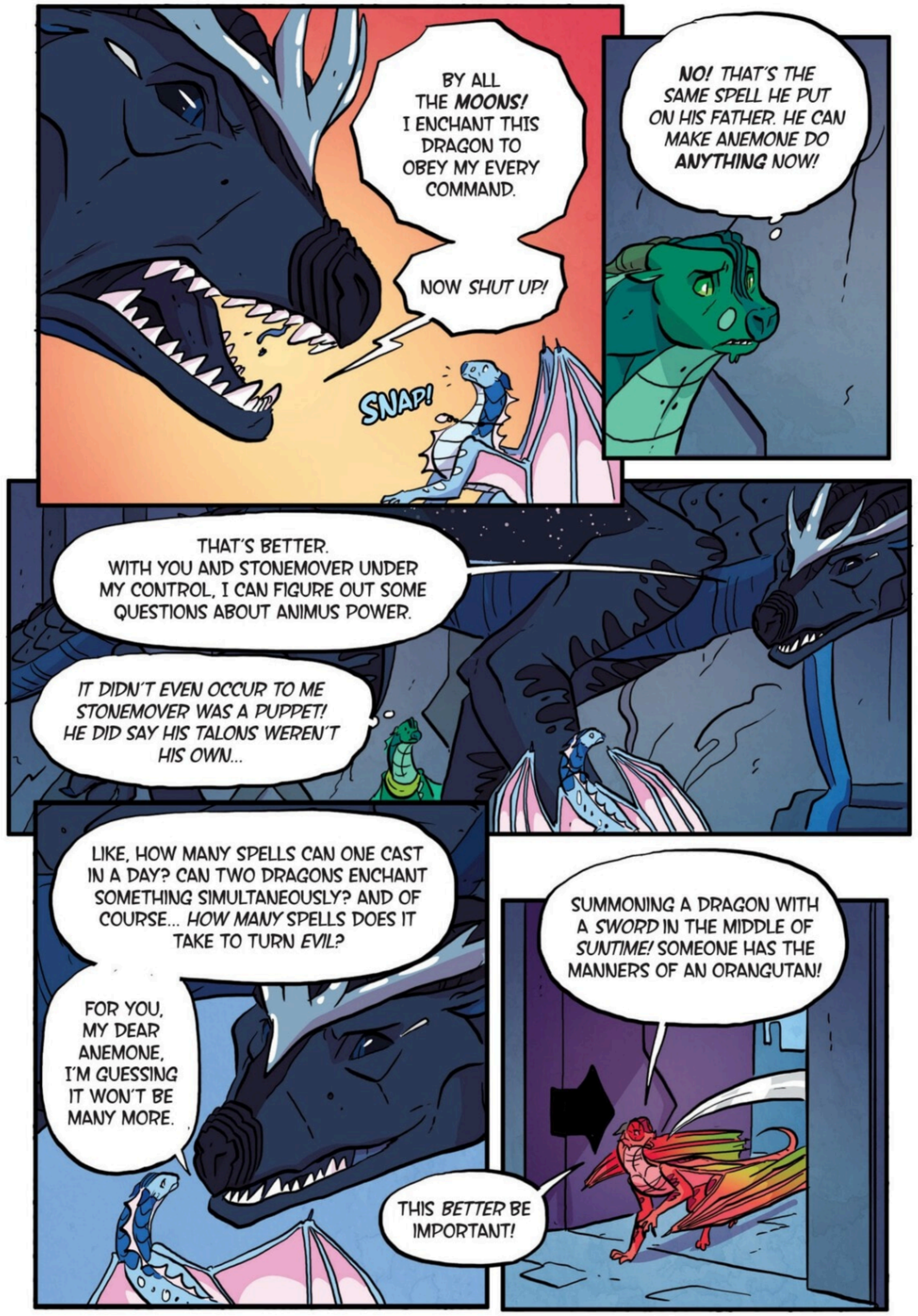

YOU'LL NEED THIS, TOO. IT KEEPS DRAGONS FROM READING YOUR MIND.
WHAT WAS THAT? WAS THAT THE ROCK?
I DON'T THINK SO. IT'S NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE...
...WE SHOULD ALSO ENCHANT SOMETHING TO MAKE DARKSTALKER FORGET THAT EXPLOSION OF ANIMUS SPELLS WE JUST DID.
HE CAN—IS *THAT* HOW HE ALWAYS CATCHES ME DOING MAGIC?
SHIVER
LET'S DO THAT FIRST! *HEY, LEAVES, ERASE ALL OUR SPELLS FROM DARKSTALKER'S MEMORY!*
YIKES!

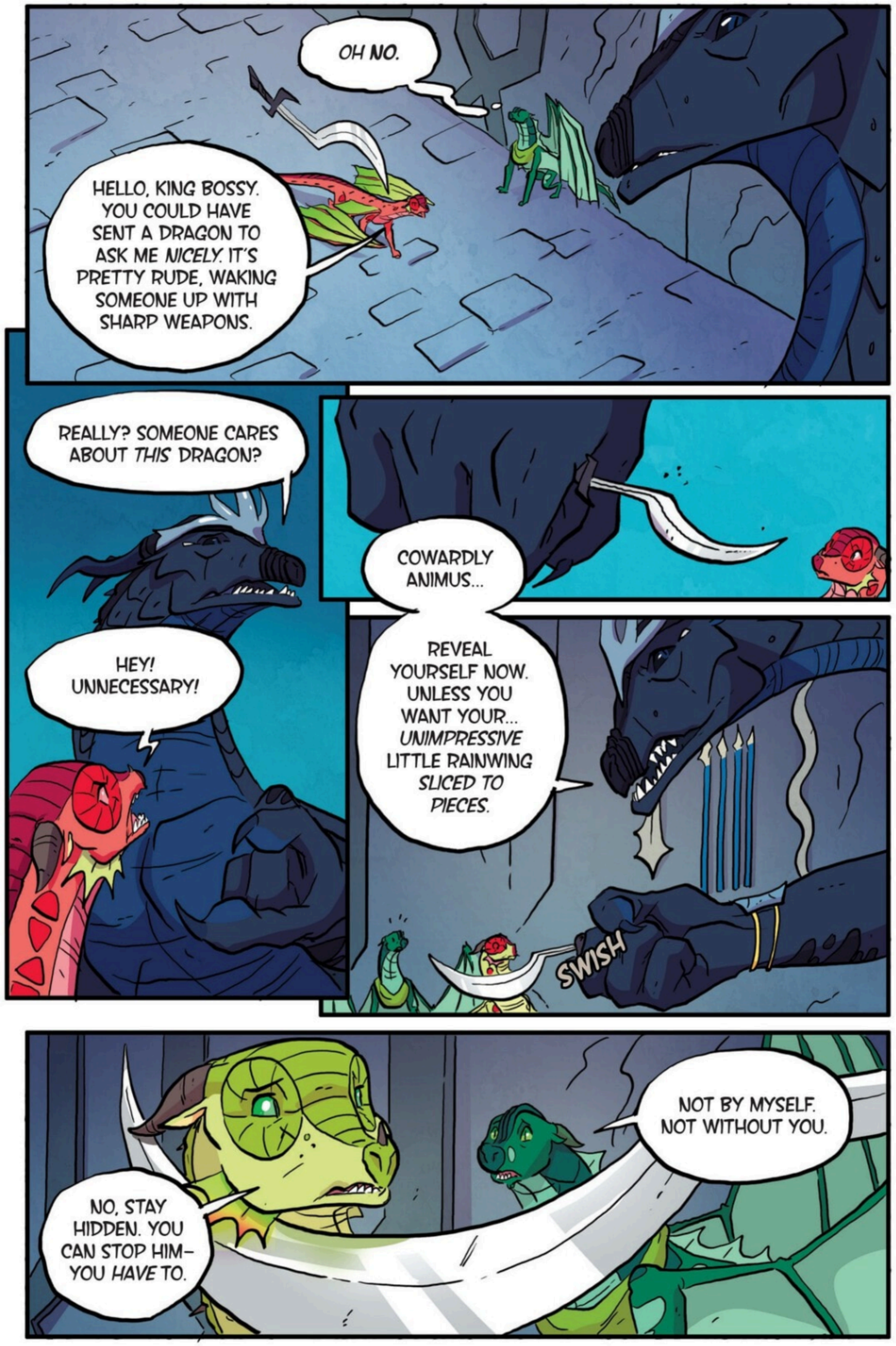

OH NO! THE *SEAWEED!* YOUR MAGIC WAS *BLOCKED!*
THEN *YOU* DO THE SPELL!
SSWWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
—BRING EVERY ANIMUS DRAGON IN ALL THE SEVEN TRIBES TO MY THRONE ROOM RIGHT NOW.

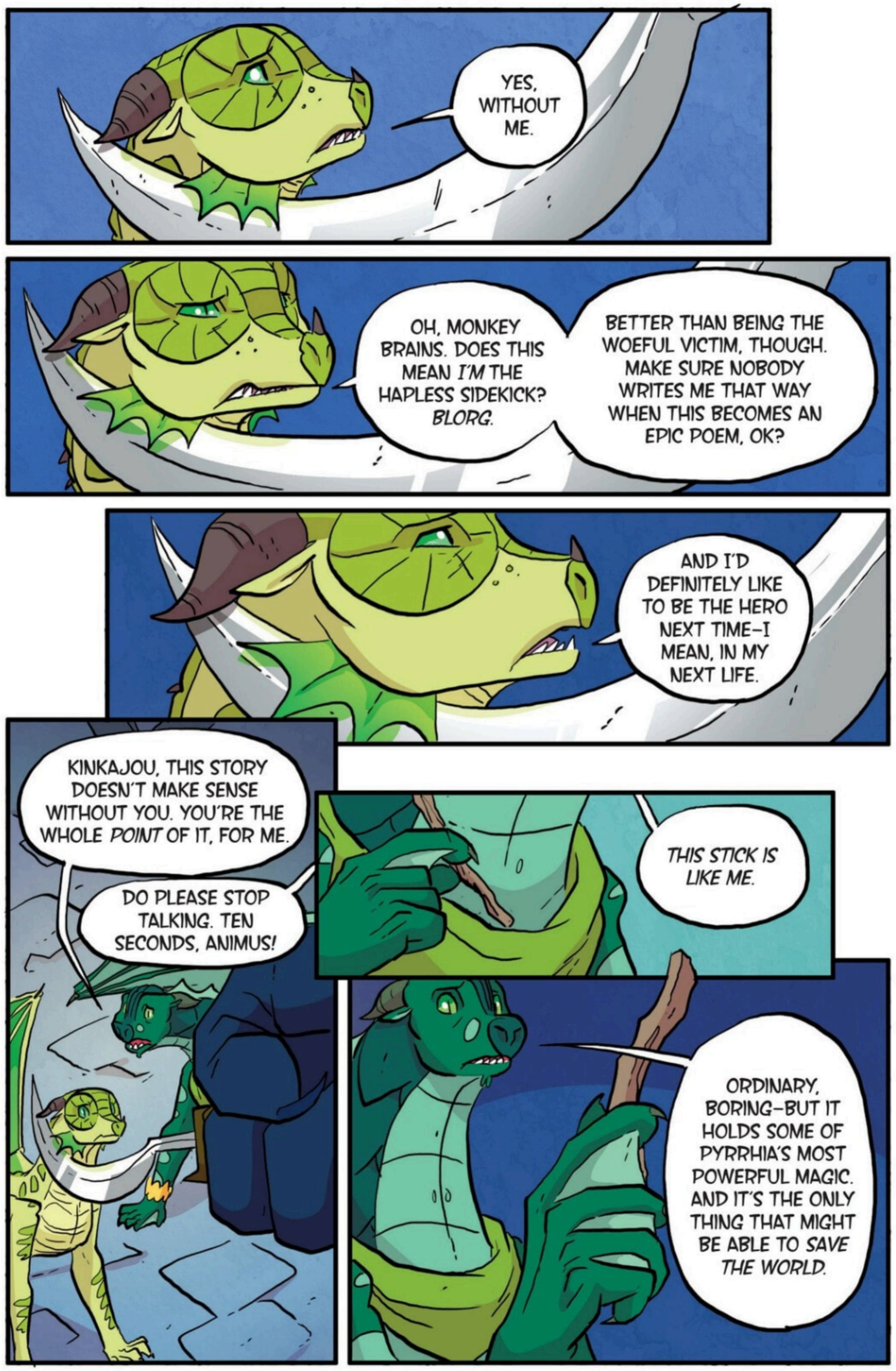

GASP!
I ENCHANT THIS ROOM
!!!
SO THAT NO ONE CAN
POOF!
CAST ANY SPELLS IN HERE EXCEPT ME.
WHERE DID THAT SANDWING GO? WHO WAS SHE? WAS SHE EVEN **REAL?**

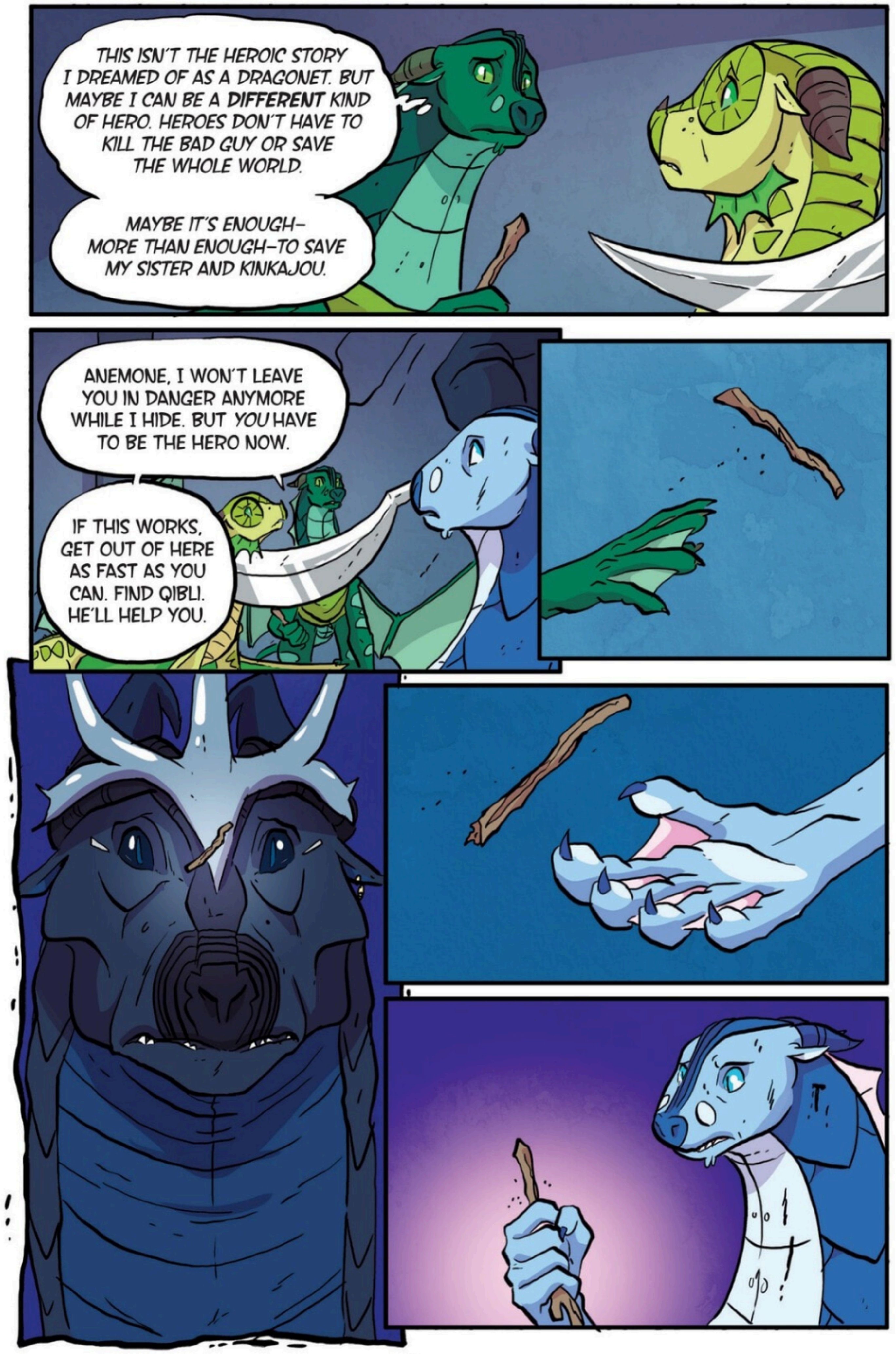

ANEMONE, WHERE'S YOUR NECKBAND?
I LOST IT.
AND I SEE SOMEONE GAVE YOU SKYFIRE. DID YOU KILL YOUR MOTHER?
NO. WHAT DO *YOU* CARE ANYWAY? WHY'D YOU DRAG ME BACK HERE AFTER ORDERING ME TO GO AWAY?
WHO WERE YOU FIGHTING, ANEMONE?
NO ONE IMPORTANT.
I WAS *WINNING* UNTIL YOU INTERRUPTED, THOUGH, BY THE WAY.
THOSE WERE BATTLING ANIMUS SPELLS. AND EVERY ANIMUS IN PYRRHIA SHOULD BE HERE. WHICH MEANS...
NO NO NO...
STONEMOVER, TELL ME THE TRUTH. HOW MANY DRAGONS ARE IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW?
FOUR.
WHAT CAN I DO? I CAN'T CAST ANY SPELLS–
THE SLATES– **QIBLI!**

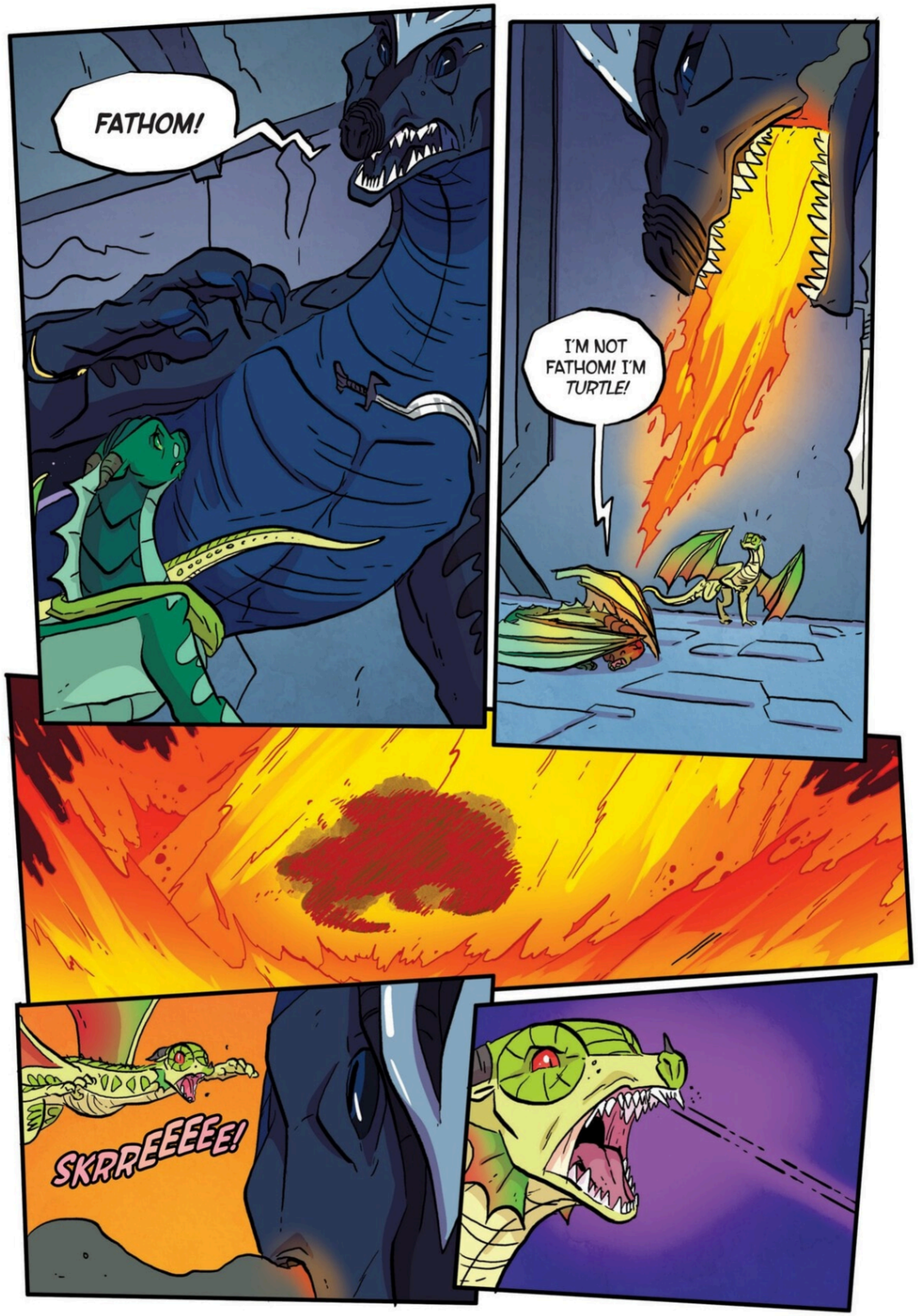

PLEASE SEE THIS SOON, QIBLI!
DARKSTALKER KNOWS ABOUT ME.
TRAPPED IN THE NIGHTWING PALACE.
HELP
SCRITCH SCRITCH
ERASE ERASE
I *KNEW* IT. THERE'S A COWARDLY ANIMUS *PLOTTING* AGAINST ME *IN SECRET*.
SWORD, BRING ME A DRAGON OUR HIDDEN ANIMUS CARES ABOUT VERY MUCH. ALIVE.
FOR NOW.
HE'S NOT COWARDLY, HE'S *SMART!* HE KNEW RIGHT AWAY NOT TO TRUST YOU. YOU THINK EVERYTHING YOU DO IS RIGHT. YOU THINK YOU'RE SO PERFECT THAT YOU DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THE DRAGONS AROUND YOU. *YOU'RE* THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO DECIDE–

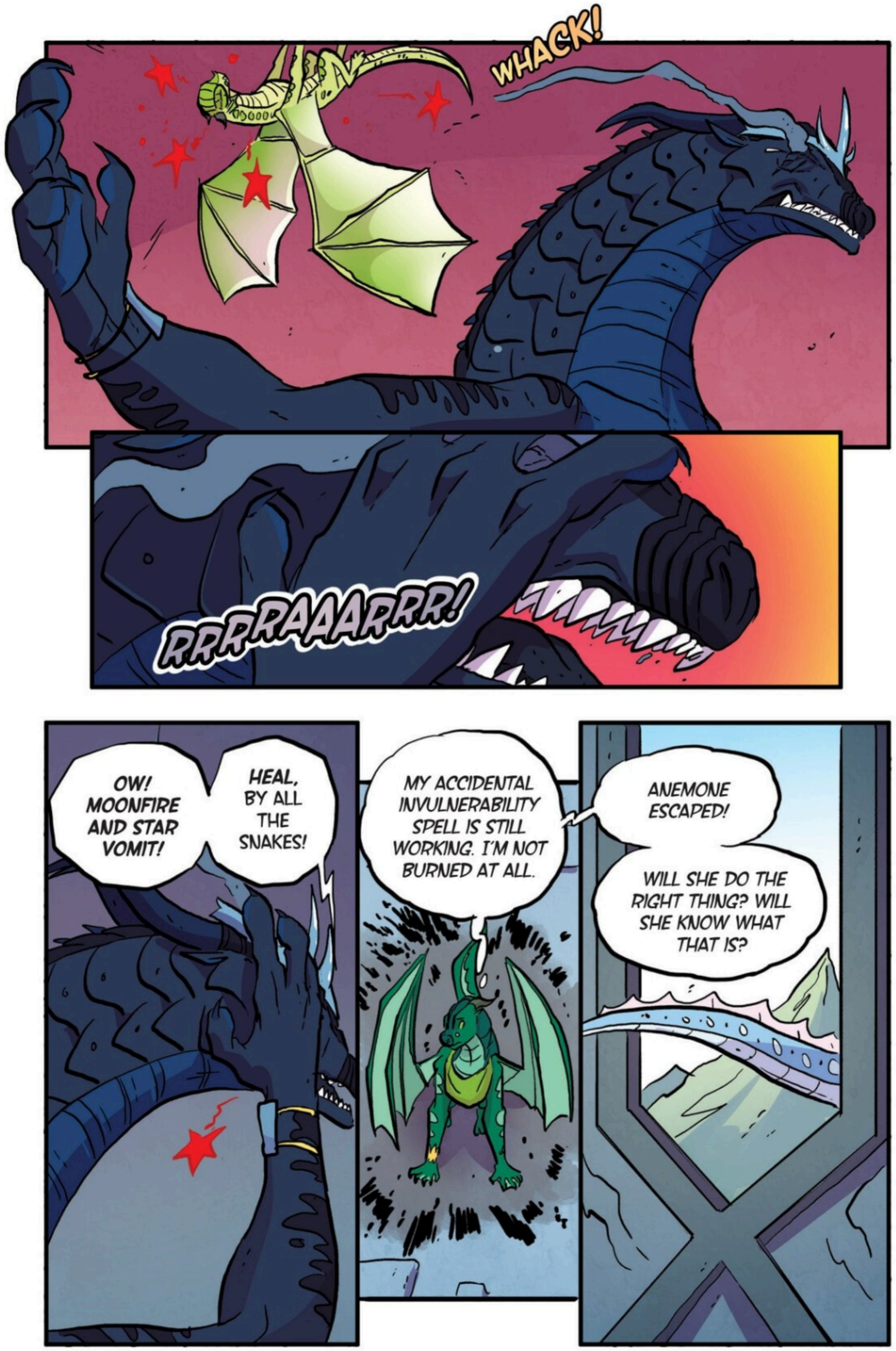

BY ALL THE ***MOONS!*** I ENCHANT THIS DRAGON TO OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND.
NOW *SHUT UP!*
SNAP!
NO! *THAT'S THE SAME SPELL HE PUT ON HIS FATHER. HE CAN MAKE ANEMONE DO* ***ANYTHING*** *NOW!*
THAT'S BETTER. WITH YOU AND STONEMOVER UNDER MY CONTROL, I CAN FIGURE OUT SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMUS POWER.
IT DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME STONEMOVER WAS A PUPPET! HE DID SAY HIS TALONS WEREN'T HIS OWN...
LIKE, HOW MANY SPELLS CAN ONE CAST IN A DAY? CAN TWO DRAGONS ENCHANT SOMETHING SIMULTANEOUSLY? AND OF COURSE... *HOW MANY* SPELLS DOES IT TAKE TO TURN *EVIL*?
FOR YOU, MY DEAR ANEMONE, I'M GUESSING IT WON'T BE MANY MORE.
SUMMONING A DRAGON WITH A *SWORD* IN THE MIDDLE OF *SUNTIME!* SOMEONE HAS THE MANNERS OF AN ORANGUTAN!
THIS *BETTER* BE IMPORTANT!

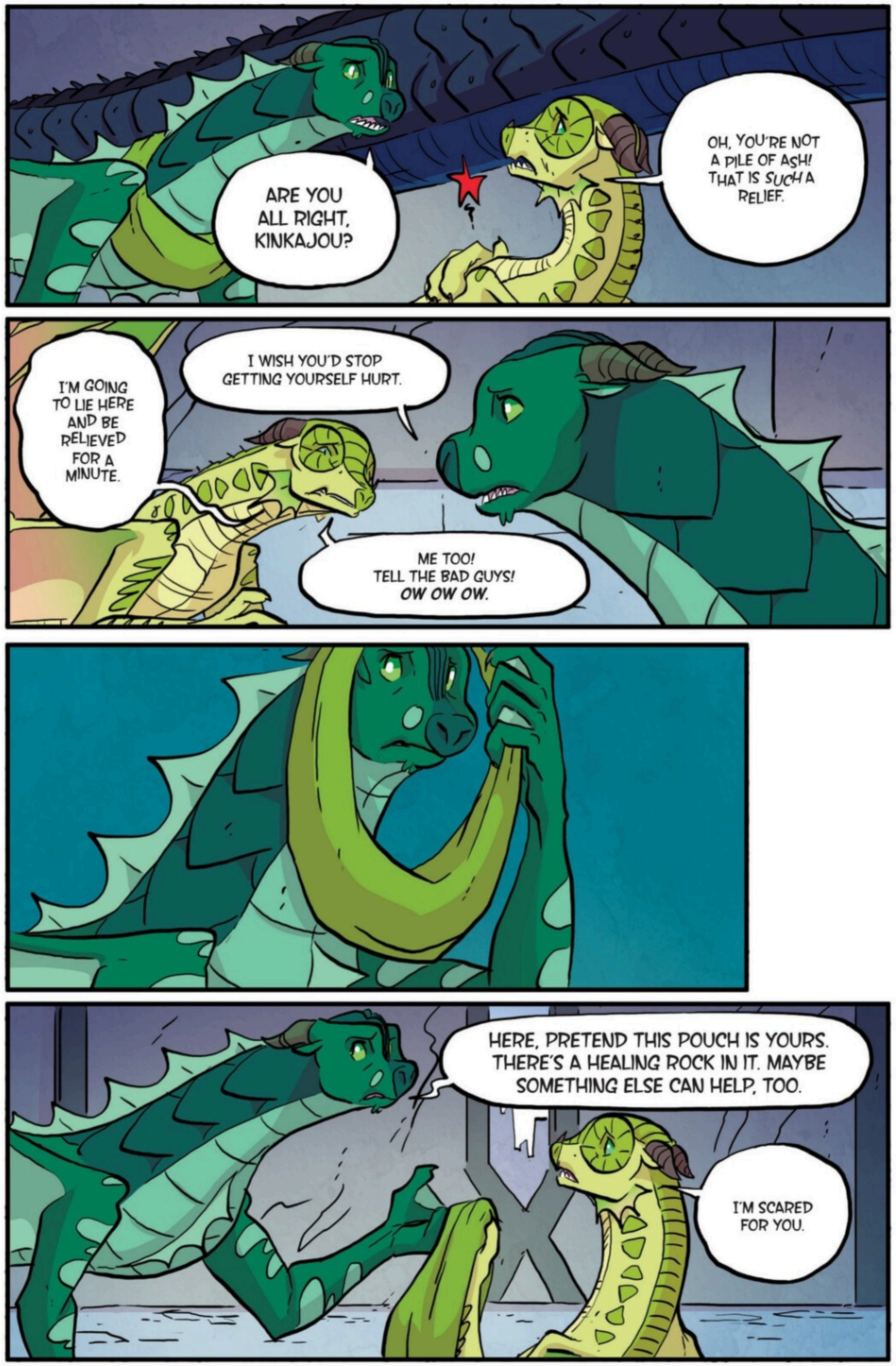

OH NO.
HELLO, KING BOSSY. YOU COULD HAVE SENT A DRAGON TO ASK ME *NICELY*. IT'S PRETTY RUDE, WAKING SOMEONE UP WITH SHARP WEAPONS.
REALLY? SOMEONE CARES ABOUT *THIS* DRAGON?
COWARDLY ANIMUS...
HEY! UNNECESSARY!
REVEAL YOURSELF NOW. UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR... *UNIMPRESSIVE* LITTLE RAINWING *SLICED TO PIECES*.
SWISH
NOT BY MYSELF. NOT WITHOUT YOU.
NO, STAY HIDDEN. YOU CAN STOP HIM— YOU *HAVE* TO.

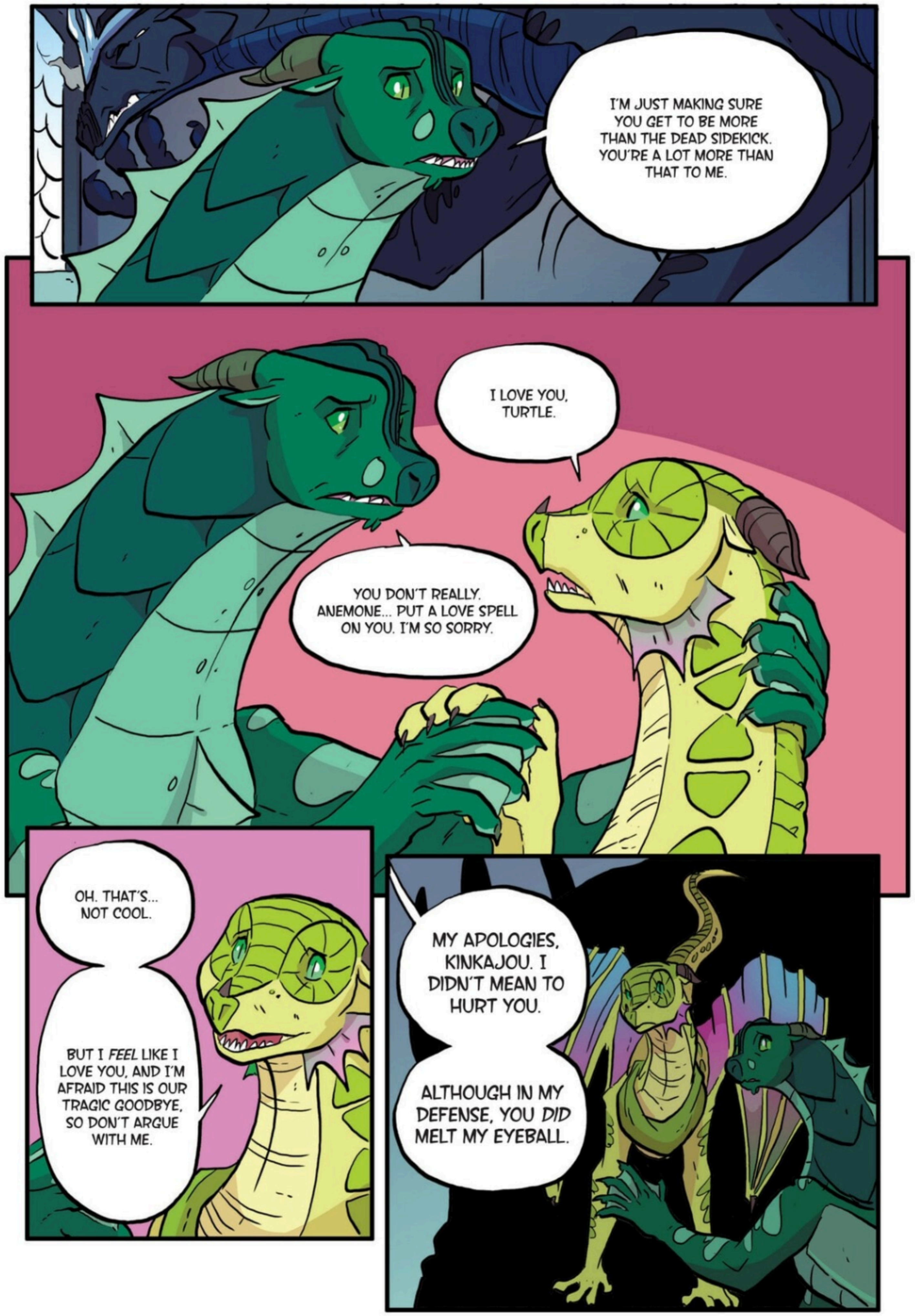

YES, WITHOUT ME.
OH, MONKEY BRAINS. DOES THIS MEAN *I'M* THE HAPLESS SIDEKICK? *BLORG*.
BETTER THAN BEING THE WOEFUL VICTIM, THOUGH. MAKE SURE NOBODY WRITES ME THAT WAY WHEN THIS BECOMES AN EPIC POEM, OK?
AND I'D DEFINITELY LIKE TO BE THE HERO NEXT TIME—I MEAN, IN MY NEXT LIFE.
KINKAJOU, THIS STORY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE WITHOUT YOU. YOU'RE THE WHOLE *POINT* OF IT, FOR ME.
DO PLEASE STOP TALKING. TEN SECONDS, ANIMUS!
THIS STICK IS LIKE ME.
ORDINARY, BORING—BUT IT HOLDS SOME OF PYRRHIA'S MOST POWERFUL MAGIC. AND IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO *SAVE THE WORLD*.

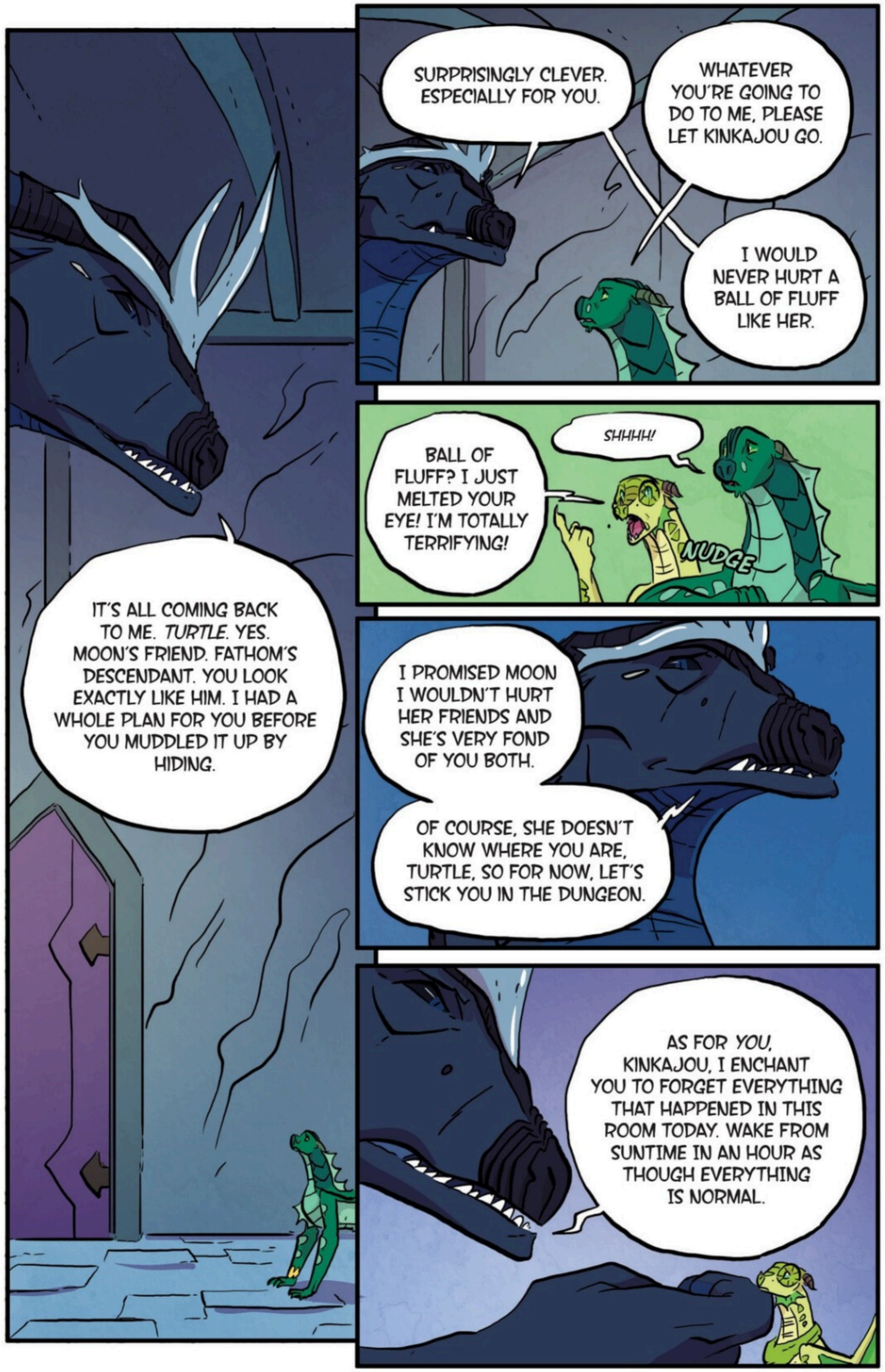

THIS ISN'T THE HEROIC STORY I DREAMED OF AS A DRAGONET. BUT MAYBE I CAN BE A **DIFFERENT** KIND OF HERO. HEROES DON'T HAVE TO KILL THE BAD GUY OR SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD.
MAYBE IT'S ENOUGH— MORE THAN ENOUGH—TO SAVE MY SISTER AND KINKAJOU.
ANEMONE, I WON'T LEAVE YOU IN DANGER ANYMORE WHILE I HIDE. BUT *YOU* HAVE TO BE THE HERO NOW.
IF THIS WORKS, GET OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN. FIND QIBLI. HE'LL HELP YOU.

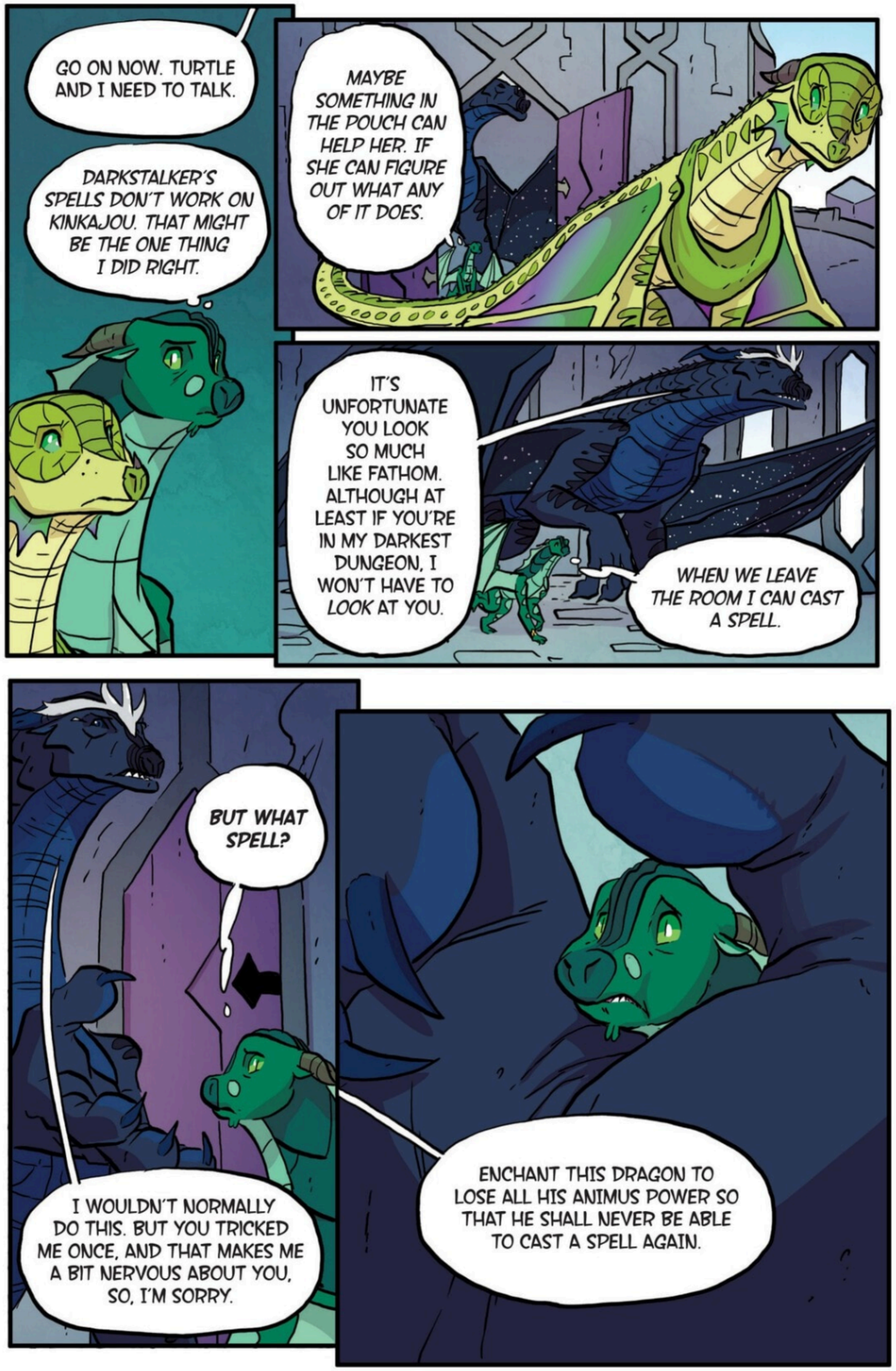

FATHOM!
I'M NOT FATHOM! I'M *TURTLE!*
SKRREEEEEE!

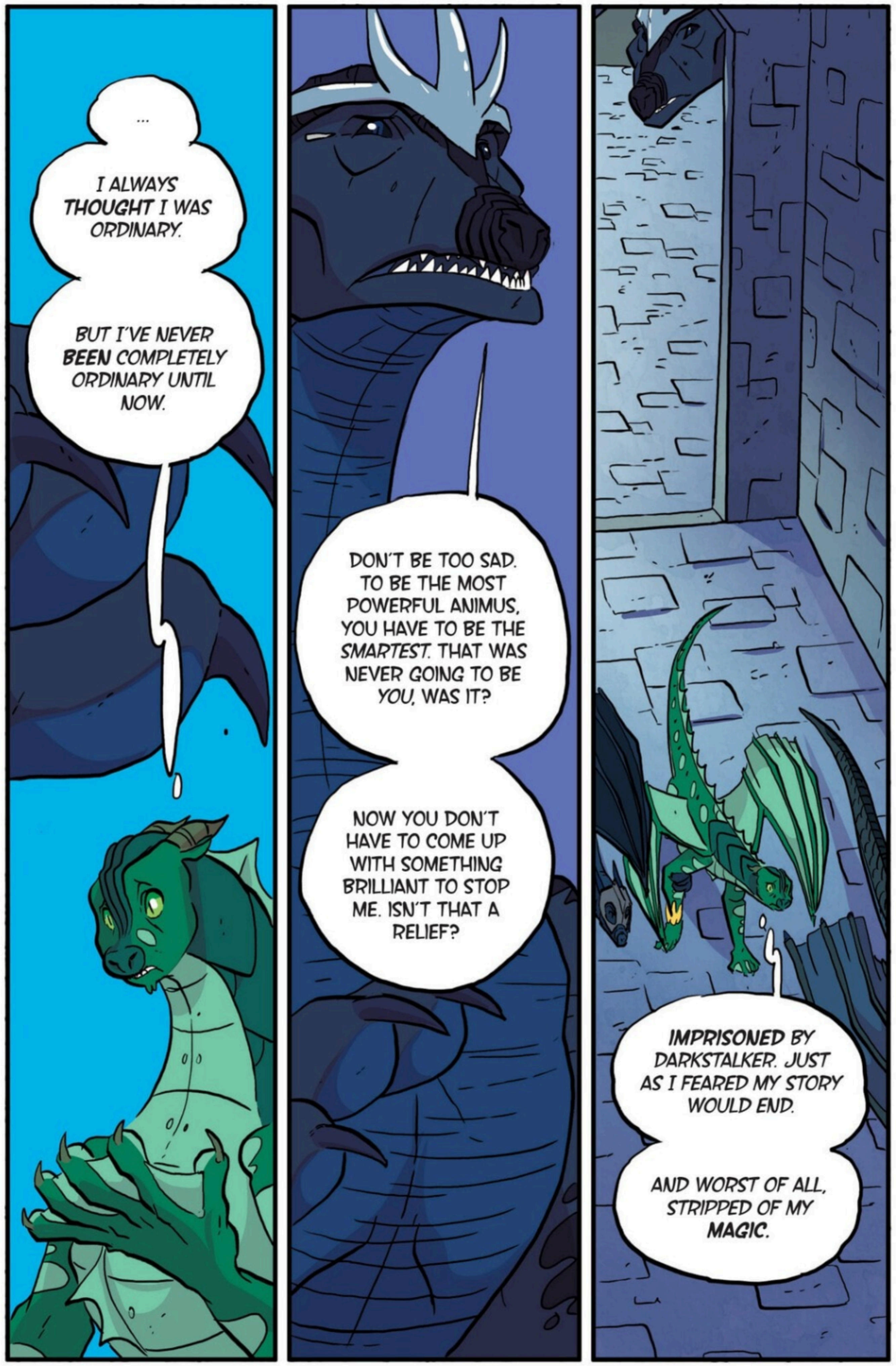

WHACK!
RRRRAAARRR!
OW! MOONFIRE AND STAR VOMIT!
HEAL, BY ALL THE SNAKES!
MY ACCIDENTAL INVULNERABILITY SPELL IS STILL WORKING. I'M NOT BURNED AT ALL.
ANEMONE ESCAPED!
WILL SHE DO THE RIGHT THING? WILL SHE KNOW WHAT THAT IS?

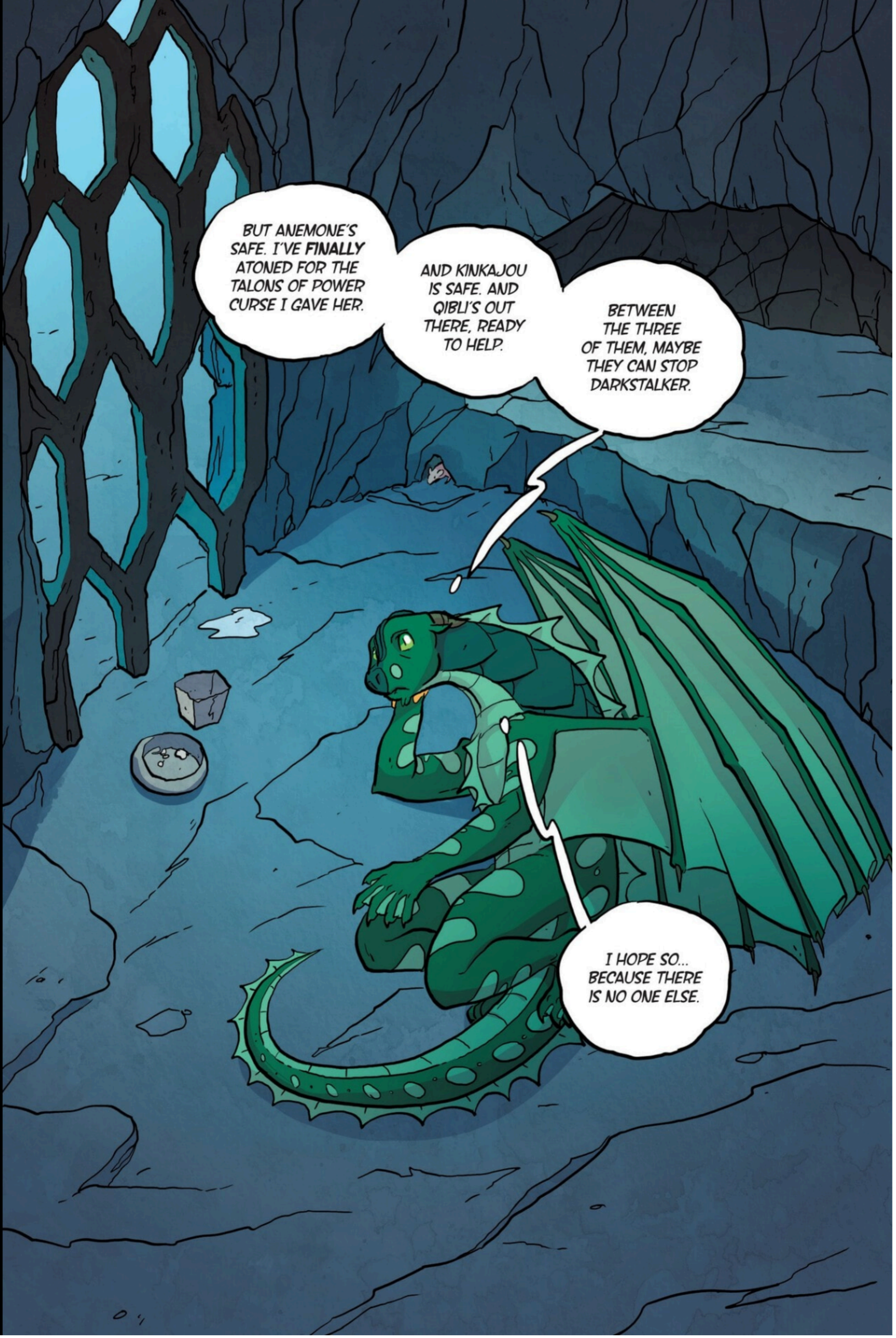

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KINKAJOU?
OH, YOU'RE NOT A PILE OF ASH! THAT IS SUCH A RELIEF.
I'M GOING TO LIE HERE AND BE RELIEVED FOR A MINUTE.
I WISH YOU'D STOP GETTING YOURSELF HURT.
ME TOO! TELL THE BAD GUYS! OW OW OW.
HERE, PRETEND THIS POUCH IS YOURS. THERE'S A HEALING ROCK IN IT. MAYBE SOMETHING ELSE CAN HELP, TOO.
I'M SCARED FOR YOU.

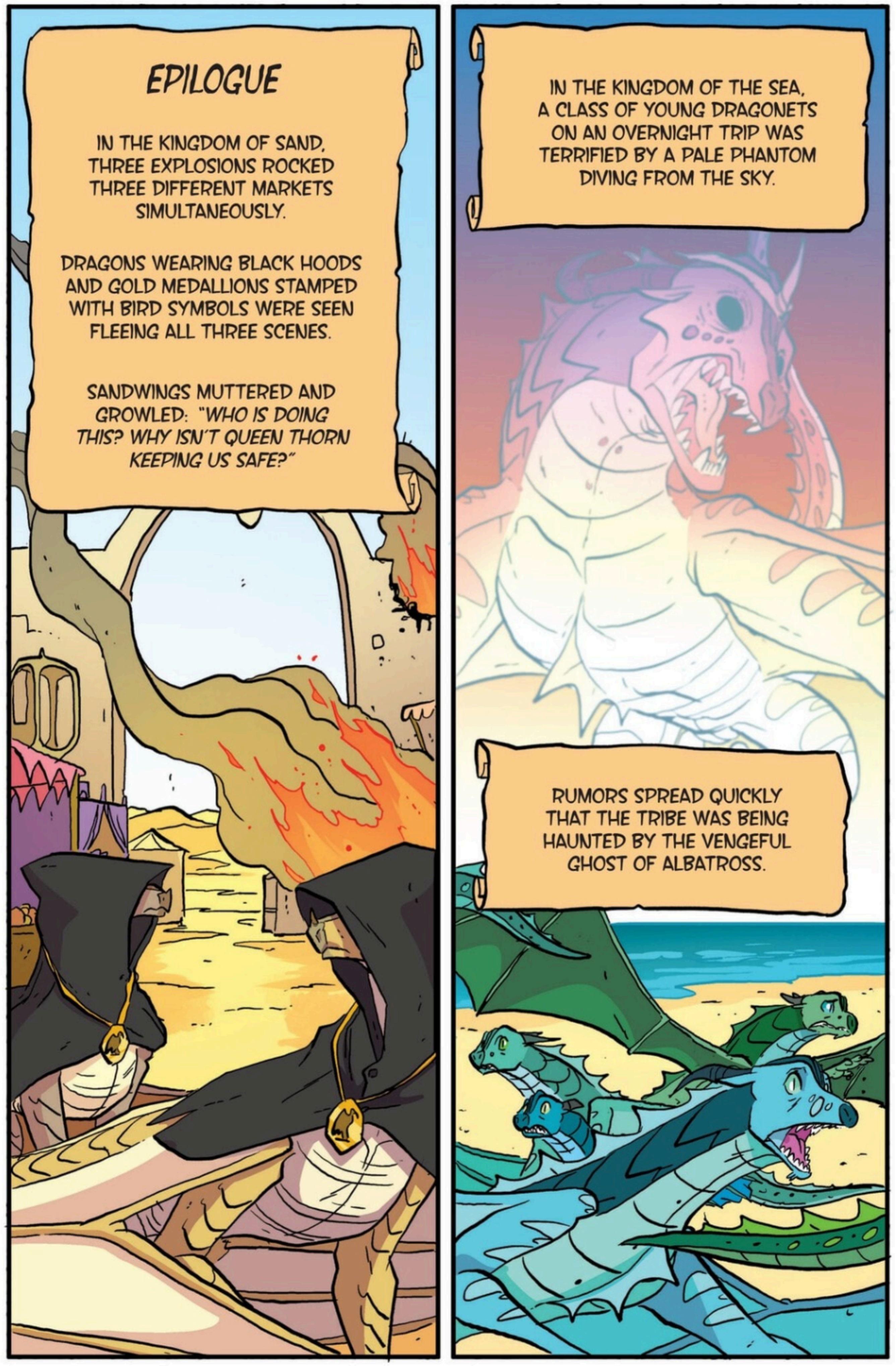

I'M JUST MAKING SURE YOU GET TO BE MORE THAN THE DEAD SIDEKICK. YOU'RE A LOT MORE THAN THAT TO ME.
I LOVE YOU, TURTLE.
YOU DON'T REALLY. ANEMONE... PUT A LOVE SPELL ON YOU. I'M SO SORRY.
OH. THAT'S... NOT COOL.
BUT I *FEEL* LIKE I LOVE YOU, AND I'M AFRAID THIS IS OUR TRAGIC GOODBYE, SO DON'T ARGUE WITH ME.
MY APOLOGIES, KINKAJOU. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU.
ALTHOUGH IN MY DEFENSE, YOU *DID* MELT MY EYEBALL.

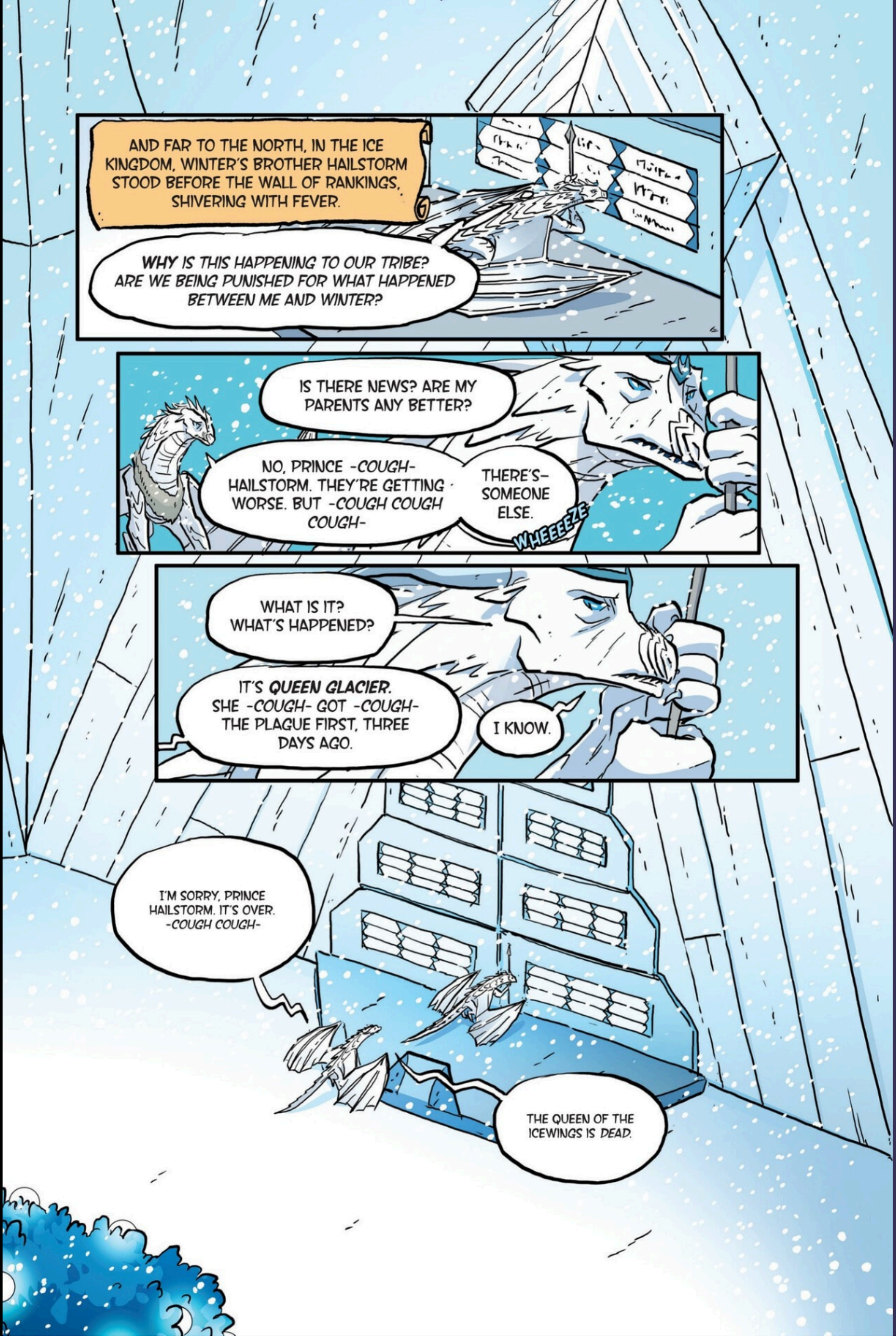

IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME. *TURTLE.* YES. MOON'S FRIEND. FATHOM'S DESCENDANT. YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HIM. I HAD A WHOLE PLAN FOR YOU BEFORE YOU MUDDLED IT UP BY HIDING.
SURPRISINGLY CLEVER. ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING TO DO TO ME, PLEASE LET KINKAJOU GO.
I WOULD NEVER HURT A BALL OF FLUFF LIKE HER.
BALL OF FLUFF? I JUST MELTED YOUR EYE! I'M TOTALLY TERRIFYING!
SHHHH!
NUDGE
I PROMISED MOON I WOULDN'T HURT HER FRIENDS AND SHE'S VERY FOND OF YOU BOTH.
OF COURSE, SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, TURTLE, SO FOR NOW, LET'S STICK YOU IN THE DUNGEON.
AS FOR *YOU,* KINKAJOU, I ENCHANT YOU TO FORGET EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THIS ROOM TODAY. WAKE FROM SUNTIME IN AN HOUR AS THOUGH EVERYTHING IS NORMAL.


GO ON NOW. TURTLE AND I NEED TO TALK.
DARKSTALKER'S SPELLS DON'T WORK ON KINKAJOU. THAT MIGHT BE THE ONE THING I DID RIGHT.
MAYBE SOMETHING IN THE POUCH CAN HELP HER. IF SHE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT ANY OF IT DOES.
IT'S UNFORTUNATE YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE FATHOM. ALTHOUGH AT LEAST IF YOU'RE IN MY DARKEST DUNGEON, I WON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT YOU.
WHEN WE LEAVE THE ROOM I CAN CAST A SPELL.
BUT WHAT SPELL?
I WOULDN'T NORMALLY DO THIS. BUT YOU TRICKED ME ONCE, AND THAT MAKES ME A BIT NERVOUS ABOUT YOU. SO, I'M SORRY.
ENCHANT THIS DRAGON TO LOSE ALL HIS ANIMUS POWER SO THAT HE SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO CAST A SPELL AGAIN.

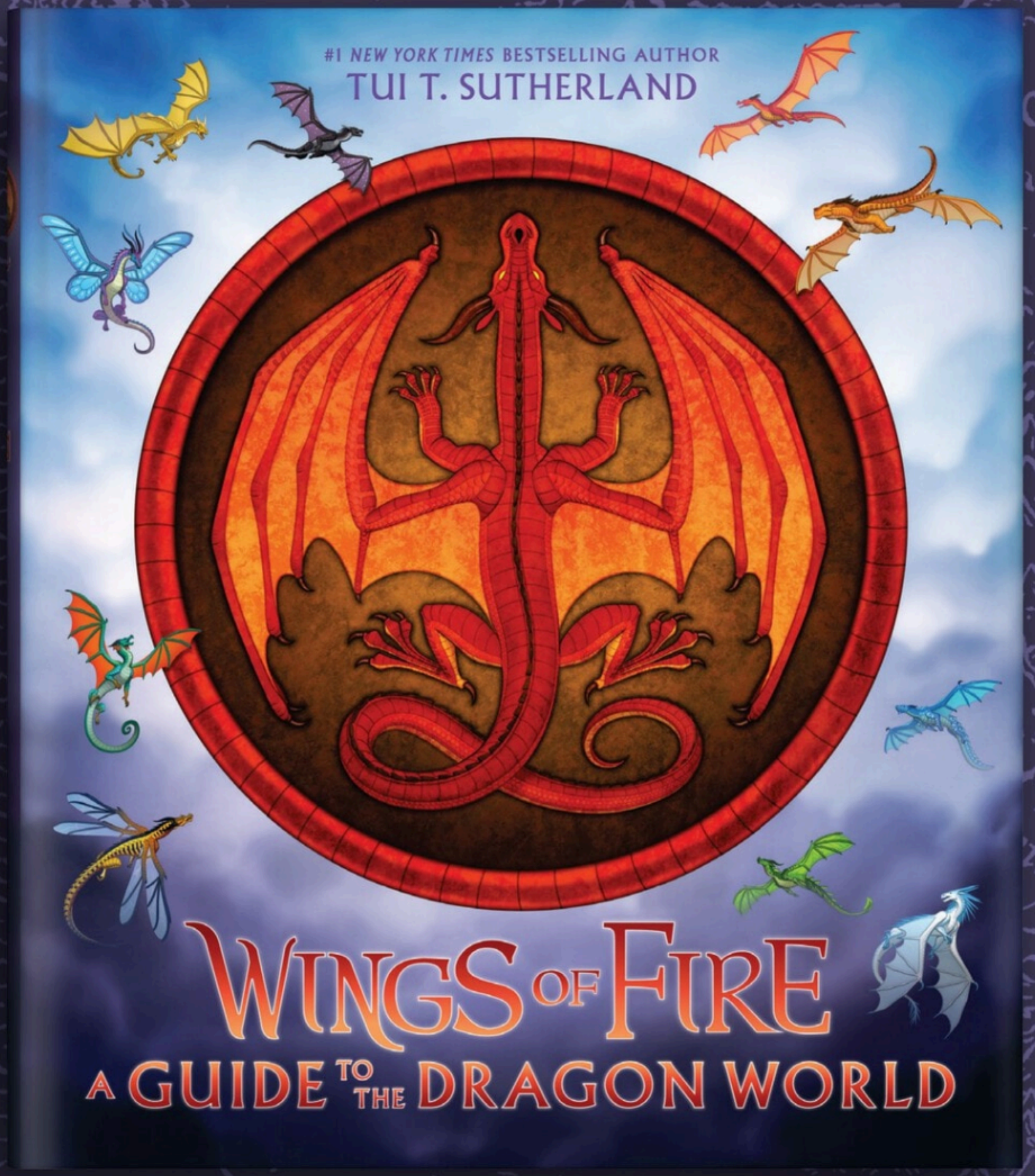

...
I ALWAYS **THOUGHT** I WAS ORDINARY.
BUT I'VE NEVER **BEEN** COMPLETELY ORDINARY UNTIL NOW.
DON'T BE TOO SAD. TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL ANIMUS, YOU HAVE TO BE THE *SMARTEST*. THAT WAS NEVER GOING TO BE *YOU*, WAS IT?
NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING BRILLIANT TO STOP ME. ISN'T THAT A RELIEF?
IMPRISONED BY DARKSTALKER. JUST AS I FEARED MY STORY WOULD END.
AND WORST OF ALL, STRIPPED OF MY **MAGIC.**


BUT ANEMONE'S SAFE. I'VE **FINALLY** ATONED FOR THE TALONS OF POWER CURSE I GAVE HER.
AND KINKAJOU IS SAFE. AND QIBLI'S OUT THERE, READY TO HELP.
BETWEEN THE THREE OF THEM, MAYBE THEY CAN STOP DARKSTALKER.
I HOPE SO... BECAUSE THERE IS NO ONE ELSE.


EPILOGUE
IN THE KINGDOM OF SAND, THREE EXPLOSIONS ROCKED THREE DIFFERENT MARKETS SIMULTANEOUSLY.
DRAGONS WEARING BLACK HOODS AND GOLD MEDALLIONS STAMPED WITH BIRD SYMBOLS WERE SEEN FLEEING ALL THREE SCENES.
SANDWINGS MUTTERED AND GROWLED: *"WHO IS DOING THIS? WHY ISN'T QUEEN THORN KEEPING US SAFE?"*
IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA, A CLASS OF YOUNG DRAGONETS ON AN OVERNIGHT TRIP WAS TERRIFIED BY A PALE PHANTOM DIVING FROM THE SKY.
RUMORS SPREAD QUICKLY THAT THE TRIBE WAS BEING HAUNTED BY THE VENGEFUL GHOST OF ALBATROSS.


AND FAR TO THE NORTH, IN THE ICE KINGDOM, WINTER'S BROTHER HAILSTORM STOOD BEFORE THE WALL OF RANKINGS, SHIVERING WITH FEVER.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO OUR TRIBE? ARE WE BEING PUNISHED FOR WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND WINTER?
IS THERE NEWS? ARE MY PARENTS ANY BETTER?
NO, PRINCE *-COUGH-* HAILSTORM. THEY'RE GETTING WORSE. BUT *-COUGH COUGH COUGH-*
THERE'S– SOMEONE ELSE.
WHEEEEZE
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
IT'S **QUEEN GLACIER.** SHE *-COUGH-* GOT *-COUGH-* THE PLAGUE FIRST, THREE DAYS AGO.
I KNOW.
I'M SORRY, PRINCE HAILSTORM. IT'S OVER. *-COUGH COUGH-*
THE QUEEN OF THE ICEWINGS IS *DEAD.*

TEN TRIBES.
TWO CONTINENTS.
THREE MOONS.


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
TUI T. SUTHERLAND
WINGS OF FIRE
A GUIDE TO THE DRAGON WORLD

LIMITLESS STORIES — TOLD BY
THE DRAGONS THEMSELVES.

AVAILABLE NOW!

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF WINGS OF FIRE

NOVELS

DARKSTALKER
DRAGONSLAYER

GRAPHIC NOVELS

TUI T. SUTHERLAND is the author of the #1 *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling Wings of Fire series, the Menagerie trilogy, and the Pet Trouble series, as well as a contributing author to the bestselling Spirit Animals and Seekers series (as part of the Erin Hunter team). In 2009, she was a two-day champion on *Jeopardy!* She lives in Massachusetts with her wonderful husband, two awesome sons, and two very patient dogs. To learn more about Tui's books, visit her online at www.tuibooks.com.

BARRY DEUTSCH is an award-winning cartoonist and the creator of the Hereville series of graphic novels, about yet another troll-fighting 11-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with a variable number of cats and fish.

MIKE HOLMES is the author and illustrator of the book *My Own World*; has drawn for the series Secret Coders, Adventure Time, and Bravest Warriors; and was a regular contributor to *MAD* Magazine. He created the comic strip *True Story* and the art project *Mikenesses*. He's from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and now lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Meredith, and son, Oscar, along with Heidi the dog and Louise the cat. Much love to our dear departed Ella.

MAARTA LAIHO spends her days and nights as a comic colorist, where her work includes the comics series Lumberjanes, Adventure Time, and the Mighty Zodiac. When she's not doing that, she can be found hoarding houseplants and talking to her cat. She lives in the woods of Maine.